

# Speech and language difficulties: where we are in 2020

5 February 2020

**#APPGSLD**





**Thank you!**

# Recap of 2019



  
 HOUSE OF COMMONS  
 LONDON SW1A 0AA

08/03/2019

Dear Prime Minister,

**Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs**

As Chairs and Co-Chairs of All-Party Parliamentary Groups and organisations interested in young people's health and education, we are writing to urge you to do more to support the over 10% of children and young people – some 1.4 million in the United Kingdom – who have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

At Prime Minister's Questions on 21 March 2018 you said 'We do not want to see any child held back from achieving their potential, and that includes ensuring that children with speech, language and communication needs are given the support they need.'

We share the vision you expressed and were pleased to see the recent first anniversary progress report on *Bercow: Ten Years On – an independent review of the state of provision for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs* detail the encouraging action that the Government has undertaken in the past year on this issue. In particular, we were pleased to see the Department for Education's focus on closing the word gap and the decision to recommission joint special educational needs and disability inspections from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

This is very welcome, but as the progress report makes clear, there is still much that needs to be done if the children and young people with SLCN and their families that our APPGs represent are to be properly supported to achieve their potential both in education and in life and, crucially, some of the risks to them are to be reduced.

## Children with speech difficulties need 'urgent action'

Schools should be given incentives to prioritise the speech, language and communication needs of children, say MPs




By Helen Ward  
11 March 2019

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MPs have written to the prime minister calling for urgent action to be taken to help the 1.4 million children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).



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20 June 2019

**Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update**

Thank you for providing a copy of the *Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary* update report. A significant amount of progress has been made over the last year, and it is good to see that captured in the report. However, we recognise that there is still more to do, and we would like to use this opportunity to reaffirm our joint commitment to supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

We want to make sure that the funding system for children and young people with SEND is working effectively to get money to the right places at the right time, and in this respect, the Department for Education (DfE) launched a call for evidence on 3 May. The aim is to gather the information necessary to make improvements where they are needed, so that the financial arrangements support head teachers in making provision for their pupils with SEN. The call for evidence will be open until 31 July 2019 and can be accessed at: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/funding-for-send-and-those-who-need-ap-call-for-ev/>.

# Further evidence 1/2



**Children's**  
COMMISSIONER

## We need to talk

Access to speech and language therapy

JUNE 2019

- 57% of areas in England reported a real-terms decrease in spending between 2016/17 and 2018/19.
- £16.35 spent on each child in the top 25% of areas.
- 58p spent on each child in the bottom 25% of areas.
- Next steps

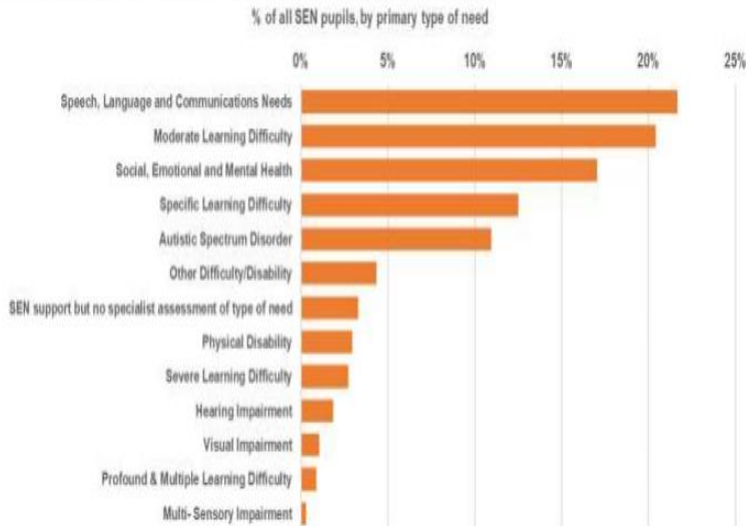
# Further evidence 2/2

## 2. Primary type of need (Table 8)

Primary type of need is collected for those pupils on SEN support or with an EHC plan. A list of the Primary types of needs is available within the accompanying technical document. Further detailed definitions are available within the [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25](#)

Across all pupils with SEN, Speech, Language and Communications Needs is the most common primary type of need at 22% of pupils. This had previously been Moderate Learning Difficulty, which has decreased to 20%.

**Figure B: Speech, language and communication needs is the most common type of need among SEN pupils**  
State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, January 2019



Source: School census, January 2019

- SLCN now most common type of primary need for pupils with SEND – 22%
- SLCN now most common of primary need for pupils on SEN support – 23%

# Policy developments 1/2



## Children and young people's mental health:

- **81%** of children with social and emotional disorders have previously **unidentified communication needs**
- Children with mental health problems are **five times** more likely to have problems with speech and language

# Policy developments 2/2



## Learning disability and autism:

- NHS Long Term Plan
- Government training programme
- Baroness Hollins' Bill

*Mandatory Training on Learning Disabilities and Autism Bill [HL]*

1

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**B I L L**

TO

Mandate training on learning disability and autism for all health and social care staff undertaking regulated activities in England; and to provide for the Secretary of State to publish a code of practice for specialist training on learning disability and autism.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 1 **Mandatory training on learning disability and autism for all health and social care staff undertaking regulated activities in England**

For regulation 18(2)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/2936), substitute—

# Looking ahead to 2020...





# Mental health reform



- What's the **issue**?
  - Over **80% of people** with mental health problems have **impairment in language**
  - **30%** of people with mental health problems have **swallowing difficulties**
  - **30 times** more likely to die of choking if you have schizophrenia
  
- What's the **risk**?
  - **Inaccurate** referrals & assessments
  - **Inaccessible** interventions, especially if verbally delivered
  - **Waste of public funds** due to failed interventions
  - Patient **safety**

# National Disability Strategy



- **Communication disability** is one of the most **common** disabilities
- It can be largely **invisible**
- It impacts a **significant proportion** of the UK's population:
  - **1 in 5 of adults** experience a communication difficulty
  - **Over ten percent of children and young people** with long term communication need

# Royal Commission on Criminal Justice process



- **60%** of young people
- Similar figures in **adult population**
- **Engagement** with the criminal justice process
- **Ageing** prison population

# NHS Funding Bill & NHS Long Term Plan



- **Better lives** for people with speech & language and swallowing difficulties
- **NHS Long Term Plan:** speech and language therapy – a profession in short supply
- **Shortage Occupation List:** DHSC – increasing demand on speech and language therapy, particularly in mental health

# Other Bills and policies



- Medicines and Medical Devices Bill
- Review of the care system

**Thank you!**  
**Any questions?**