





# What your Policy and Public Affairs Team does for you!

- 

Empowered by members' expertise, the RCSLT Policy and Public Affairs team secures you a seat at the top table, influencing government ministers, civil servants and other national leaders across all four nations of the United Kingdom.
- 

We build relationships with parliamentarians in all Parliaments and Assemblies to change legislation, regulation and policy.
- 

We campaign nationally for better lives for people with communication and swallowing needs, including working with service users and service user organisations.
- 

We support you to influence locally, providing you with both strategic advice and practical resources.



## Produce factsheets

Aimed at an external audience, our factsheets provide an overview of many conditions and client groups, the prevalence, impact and role of speech and language therapy.

There are currently more than 30 factsheets covering conditions from autism to voice.

Recent factsheets include developmental language disorder, motor neurone disease and mental capacity.

Go to [www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org) then Get Involved > Giving Voice > Giving Voice resources.

**Have an idea?** If you have an idea for a new factsheet, email [peter.just@rcslt.org](mailto:peter.just@rcslt.org)



## Influence national policy

We influence national policy by helping the profession engage with new Government initiatives. For example we have responded to the promotion of apprenticeships by Government by developing an SLT apprenticeship, are engaging with new frameworks on advanced practice and looking at the implications of Integrated Care Systems.

The image shows three sample factsheet covers from the 'Giving Voice' series. Each cover features the 'Giving Voice' logo and the RCSLT logo. The first cover is titled 'Giving voice to people with developmental language disorder' and includes a statistic: 'The prevalence of developmental language disorder in children is 7.5% of children' and '2.5% of children'. The second cover is titled 'Speech and language therapists helping to determine mental capacity' and includes a photo of a therapist working with a child. The third cover is titled 'Supporting people living with motor neurone disease' and includes a photo of a person in a hospital bed and a 'Mr J's story' text box.

# What your Policy and Public Affairs Team does for you!



## Write briefings and consultation responses

We write briefings for parliamentarians and respond to consultations from Government and other key stakeholders. We also provide analysis of key policy documents to highlight what speech and language therapists need to know, and issue statements setting out the RCSLT position on hot topics.

These documents provide a useful summary of the research and policy context, which you can use to influence your decision makers locally.

Go to <https://www.rcslt.org/policy> then select from

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland



## Support local influencing

We have developed a set of webpages to give you the tools you need to demonstrate to your local budget holders, decision-makers, and other stakeholders that speech and language therapy transforms lives, and can help to deliver their objectives.

Log into the website then go to Guidance > Delivering Quality Services > Local influencing



## Campaign

We run discrete campaigns on specific issues. These have included our dementia campaign, which highlighted how speech and language therapy can support people living with dementia. More recently, we have been campaigning to improve the provision of support for children and young people in England with communication needs, through our work with I CAN on Bercow: Ten Years On.

We also work to raise general awareness of communication and swallowing needs. This has included the My Journey, My Voice exhibition in Northern Ireland as well as using our Giving Voice Twitter feed to provide members with resources to support their local awareness raising work.



## Stay informed!

To keep up-to-date with the latest policy and public affairs developments you can do two things:



1) If you're on Twitter, follow @RCSLTpolicy, @RCSLTScot, @RCSLTWales @RCSLTNI and @GivingVoiceUK.



2) Sign up to receive the RCSLT Monitoring Bulletin – a weekly round-up of government announcements, media stories and news from RCSLT and other organisations relevant to speech and language therapy – email [caroline.wright@rcslt.org](mailto:caroline.wright@rcslt.org)