



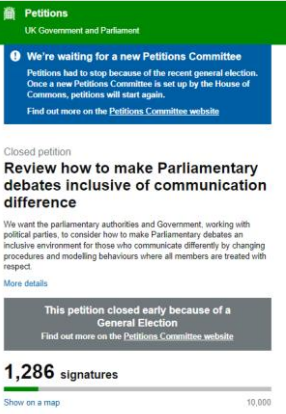
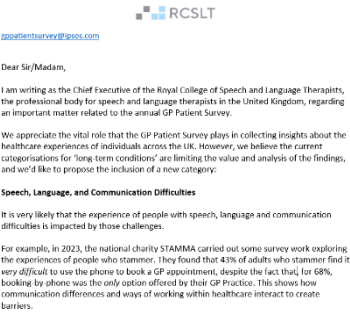
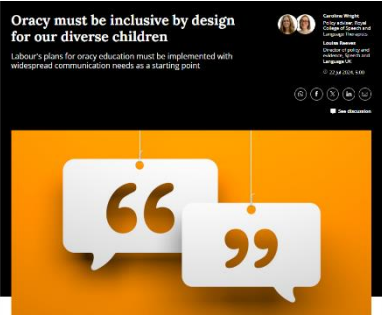

RCSLT work on stammering 2022-24

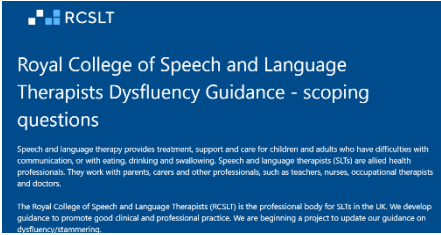


August 2024

This note highlights some of the work the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) has done with STAMMA, Action for Stammering Children, and the Michael Palin Centre since the last STAMMAFest, as well as other work we have done on stammering between 2022-24.

 <p>Declaration of the Right to Stutter</p> <p>We, the undersigned, declare that people who stutter should be accepted as being equal. We may, or may not, choose to find a cure to our stutter or stutter less. There is no right to be not stuttering or to expect or have that we sound fluent. We stutter. That is how we talk.</p> <p>In the face of disability, adjustments are too often not given to those who stutter. Be it at work, education or using everyday services. The expectation is rather that we should learn to 'overcome' our stutter and accept 'differences'. As individuals we may wish, and we may try, to do so. But as a community we refuse the idea that we all stop stuttering.</p> <p>No organisation can claim to value equality or diversity unless stuttering voices are permitted and valued. We call upon every organisation and individual to work with people who stutter to make sure that all of us give the respect every person deserves, and that space is made for us.</p> <p>It is our right to speak as we do.</p>	<p>October 2022</p> <p>RCSLT joins over 70 organisations around the globe calling for the Right to Stutter.</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/rcslt-joins-over-70-organisations-around-the-globe-calling-for-the-right-to-stutter/</p>
	<p>October 2022</p> <p>RCSLT hosts a podcast: <i>Stammering: time for a radical rethink?</i></p> <p>Dr Patrick Campbell, Kirsten Howells, and Jennifer Roche discuss why it's important for us to reframe how we view stammering.</p> <p>https://soundcloud.com/rcslt/stammering-time-for-a-radical-rethink</p>
<p>Sent via email - please respond to: peter.just@rcslt.org and aidan.smith@ndcs.org.uk</p> <p>The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP Department for Education 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT</p> <p>The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP Department for Health and Social Care 39 Victoria Street London SW1H 0EU</p> <p>02 November 2022</p> <p>Dear Secretaries of State,</p> <p>Investing in the specialist workforce for children and young people</p> <p>We're writing to you as a broad coalition of over 110 charities, royal colleges, professional bodies, professional associations, trade unions, parents and carers and others who want the very best for children and young people - including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).</p> <p>Firstly, we'd like to congratulate you both on your new positions. We look forward to working with you and your ministers to ensure that all children and young people can achieve their potential, both at school and in life, including through ensuring that those with SEND can access the support they and their families depend on.</p> <p>Why the specialist workforce matters</p> <p>As we're sure you agree, ensuring children, young people and their families can access the specialist support they need from expert professionals is essential at every stage of their lives - from the early years, throughout their school lives, and, for those over 16, in colleges. For mainstream educational settings to be truly inclusive, teachers must have access to a broad range of specialist education, health and care professionals to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people, including those with SEND. Specialist settings must also be able to recruit the expert staff they need to meet the needs of their pupils.</p>	<p>November 2022</p> <p>STAMMA and Action for Stammering Children join the RCSLT-organised #SENDInTheSpecialists coalition of (now) over 130 organisations calling on the Government to invest in and plan for the specialist workforce for children and young people with SEND.</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/rcslt-marks-1st-anniversary-of-the-sendinthespecialists-coalition/</p>

<p>Sent by email – please reply to peter.just@rcslt.org & glissa.creegan@rcslt.org</p> <p>Claire Coutinho MP Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 March 2023</p> <p>Dear Minister,</p> <p>#SENDinTheSpecialists coalition - response to the SEND and AP Improvement Plan</p> <p>We are getting in touch following the publication of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan and your comments in the House of Commons on 7 March about the specialist workforce and the importance of specialist support.</p> <p>We welcome the Government's commitment to work alongside children, young people and their families, and those who work across every part of the SEND system, to deliver improvements to the SEND and AP system. As a broad group of over 120 charities, professional bodies, campaign groups, parents and carers organisations, trade unions and others, united in calling for better investment in and planning of the specialist workforce for children and young people, we believe the #SENDinTheSpecialists coalition has an important role to play in delivering these improvements.</p> <p>Given our focus on the specialist workforce, we were also pleased to see the announcement of the joint Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care approach to SEND workforce planning, with a clear timeframe to establish a steering group in 2023 and complete its work by 2025. This joint up across education, health and social care at the national level is vital in order to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.</p>	<p>March 2023</p> <p>Action for Stammering Children and STAMMA sign-up to a #SENDinTheSpecialists coalition letter to the Government about the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/sendinthespecialists-coalition-writes-to-minister-for-children-and-families/</p>
	<p>September 2023</p> <p>RCSLT Northern Ireland (RCSLT NI) meets the Belfast Stammer Support (BSS) founder and NHS stammering speech and language therapists to forge better partnership working. We encourage BSS to register with STAMMA and now NHS SLTs can sign post patients to their support groups.</p>
	<p>October 2023</p> <p>To mark International Stammering Awareness Day five regional specialist speech and language therapists take over the @RCSLTNI X account to raise awareness and dispel common stammering myths.</p>
	<p>January 2024</p> <p>STAMMA and Action for Stammering Children join the RCSLT-organised #ThinkLanguageFirst coalition (of over 50 organisations).</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/rcslt-joins-the-historic-launch-of-atlas-think-first-manifesto-at-the-house-of-lords/</p>
	<p>February 2024</p> <p>STAMMA and Action for Stammering Children join the RCSLT-organised #LetsTalkCommunication coalition (of over 50 organisations) calling on the three main UK parties to have children and young people's spoken language and communication front and centre in their manifestos.</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/call-to-party-leaders-letstalkcommunication/</p>

	<p>March 2024</p> <p>RCSLT joins STAMMA, the Michael Palin Centre, Disability Rights UK, and the Co-op in supporting the #InclusiveParliament petition.</p> <p>https://www.rcslt.org/news/rcslt-supports-petition-calling-for-an-inclusiveparliament/</p>
	<p>April 2024</p> <p>RCSLT writes to Ipsos about the GP survey including a category on 'speech, language and communication difficulties'.</p>
	<p>July 2024</p> <p>Action for Stammering Children contributes to a RCSLT and Speech and Language UK organised roundtable for the Commission on the Future of Oracy Education in England highlighting how oracy must embrace all children and young people, however they communicate.</p> <p>https://schoolsweek.co.uk/oracy-must-be-inclusive-by-design-for-our-diverse-children/</p> <p><i>In May, STAMMA had recorded a podcast with the Commission Chair, Geoff Barton, on the same theme:</i></p> <p>https://oracyeducationcommission.co.uk/the-commission-conversations-kirsten-howells/</p>
	<p>August 2024</p> <p>RCSLT NI launches Buddy Chat. It includes video footage of a child who stammers. This resource educates children about communication differences and gives strategies to become kind, caring communicators in the classroom and beyond. It aims to reduce bullying and increase acceptance.</p>

	<p>From now until September</p> <p>RCSLT is consulting on our guidance on dysfluency.</p> <p>We'd love to hear from you! Please fill out our survey.</p> <p>DEADLINE: <u>15 September</u></p> <p>https://forms.office.com/e/jkknR9RAX8</p>
 <p>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC</p>	<p>In the future</p> <p>We look forward to continuing to work with STAMMA, Action for Stammering Children, the Michael Palin Centre, and you on relevant issues.</p> <p>Some include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The House of Commons Modernisation Committee • MPs' surgeries • The GP survey
	<p>Contact</p> <p>Contact me on: elissa.cregan@rcslt.org</p>