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RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (ROOT)

History of the ROOT

Identification
of an existing outcome measure considered 'best fit' across the profession (TOM)

Development
and piloting of an online tool (ROOT) to support data collection and reporting of TOM

Evaluation
of the pilot, indicated that the ROOT added value to services

Roll-out
of the ROOT across the SLT profession, using a phased approach

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RCSLT Online Outcome Tool

The RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (ROOT) supports speech and language therapy services with:

- Collecting and collating Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs) data
- Evaluating and reporting outcomes

WHAT IS ROOT?

https://bit.ly/ROOTintro

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Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs)

- 4 domains (based on the World Health Organisation International Classification of Functioning (ICF))

Impairment	Activity	Participation	Wellbeing

- (Optional: carer wellbeing)

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Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs)

- 68 specific scales ('adapted scales')

- Each is 11-point ordinal scale with 6 defined points (descriptors)

Profound		Severe		Severe/ moderate		Moderate		Mild		Normal limits
0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0

- **Before** and **after** therapy – holistic overview

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Data collection

Direct data entry

Data about service users is entered directly into the ROOT

Data upload

SLT services that are currently able to collect and collate TOMs data effectively within their local electronic system(s) can export data and upload to the ROOT

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Data collected via the ROOT

- Therapy Outcome Measures

- Patient demographics

- Nature and severity of the speech and language therapy needs (e.g. dysphagia, aphasia, speech sound disorder)

- Relevant medical diagnoses (e.g. stroke, Motor Neurone Disease, cerebral palsy)

- Duration of therapy episode

- Status at the end of the therapy episode (e.g. therapy complete (discharged), transfer to another service, died)

- Optional fields (e.g. total amount of therapy time, objectives of the intervention etc.)

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The ROOT in numbers

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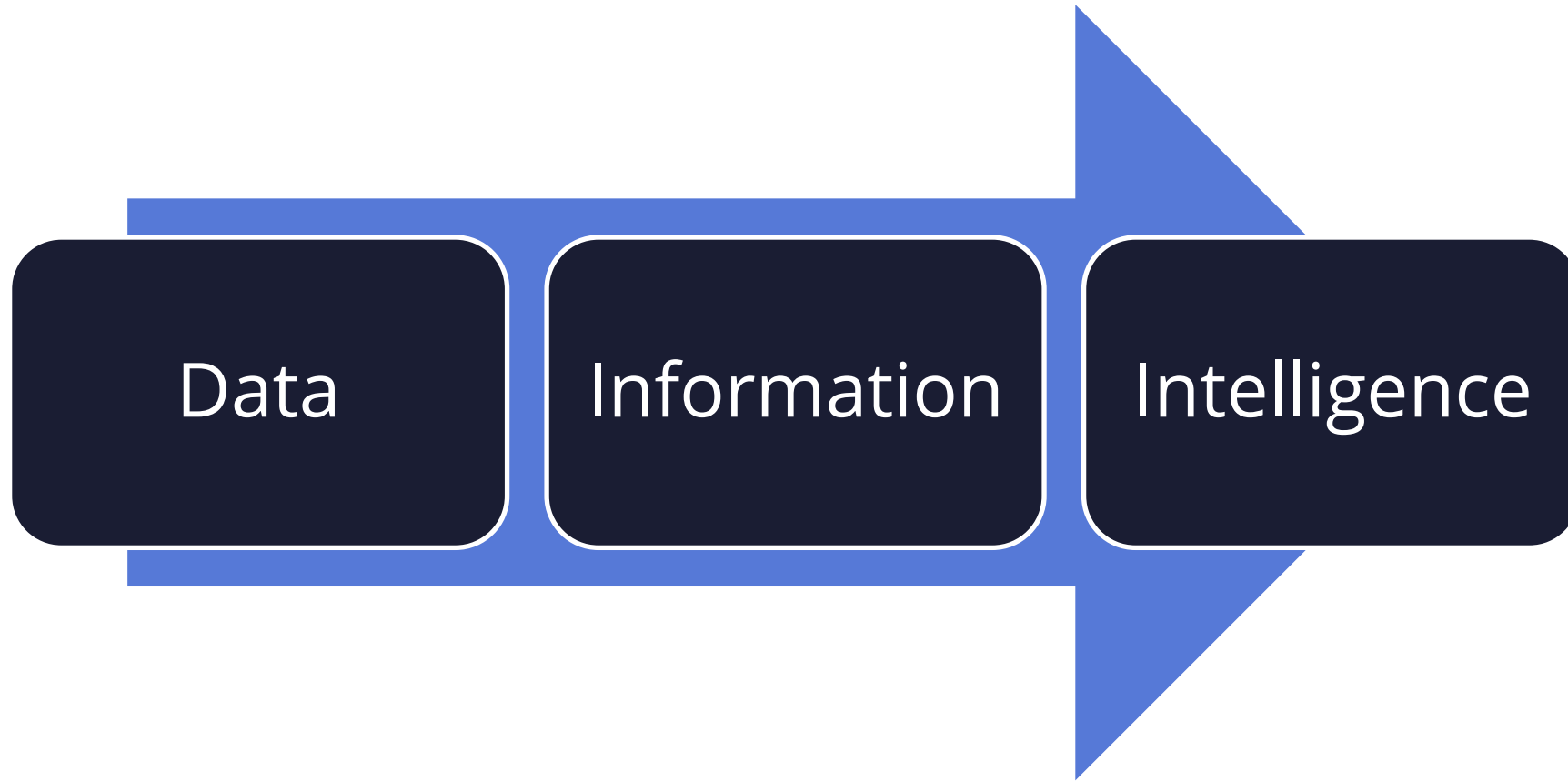**85** organisations actively using the ROOT

106 further organisations have registered
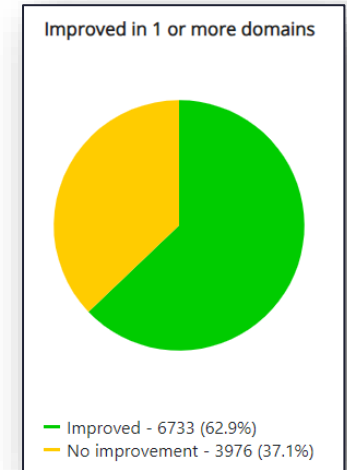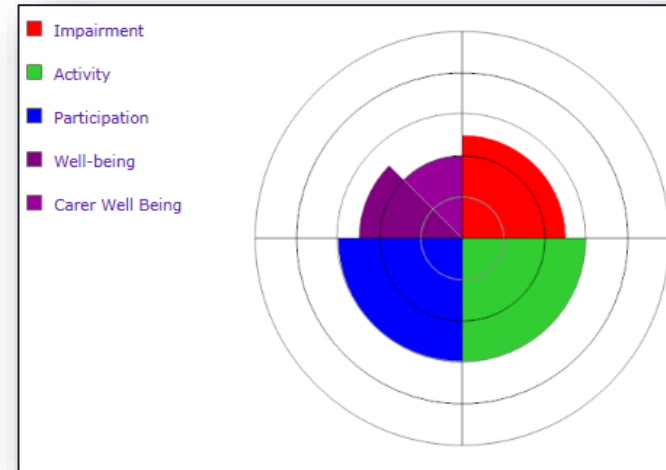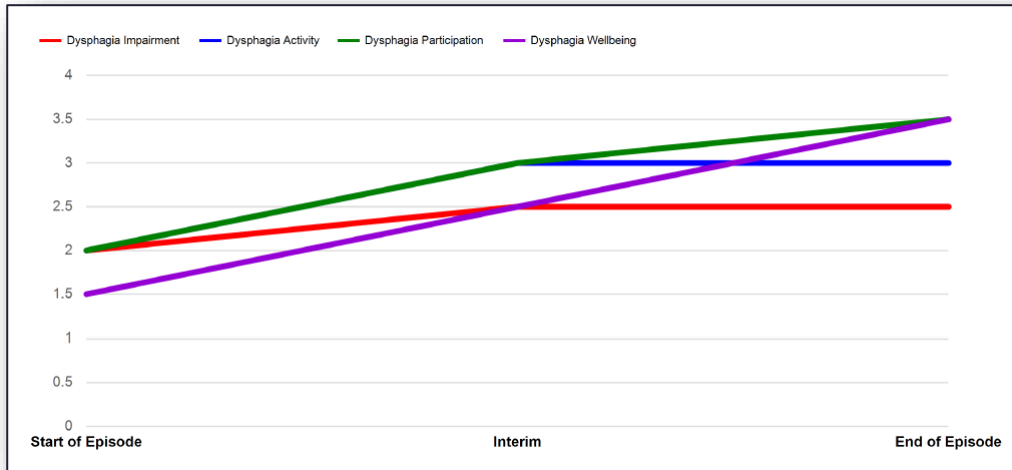
90,479 outcomes in the database

What does the ROOT do?

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Data → Information → Intelligence

How?

Line graph legend: Dysphagia Impairment — Dysphagia Activity — Dysphagia Participation — Dysphagia Wellbeing

X-axis: Start of Episode | Interim | End of Episode

Rose chart legend:
- Impairment
- Activity
- Participation
- Well-being
- Carer Well Being

Pie chart: Improved in 1 or more domains
- Improved - 6733 (62.9%)
- No improvement - 3976 (37.1%)

Average Type	Impairment			Activity			Participation			Wellbeing			Carer Wellbeing		
	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change
Mean	2.78	3.9	1.16	2.88	3.99	1.13	3.72	4.48	0.78	3.69	4.44	0.78	4.25	4.5	0

	Average Type											
All Toms Scales Episodes: (49) Patients: (49)	Mean	2.77	3.11	0.35	2.73	3.28	0.54	2.57	3.09	0.52	2.54	3.1	0.56
	Median	3	3	0.5	3	3.5	0.5	2.5	3	0.5	3	3	0.5
Cleft Lip or Palate Episodes: (8) Patients: (8)	Mean	2.94	3	0.06	3	3.25	0.25	2.69	3	0.31	2.81	2.88	0.06
	Median	3	3	0.25	3	3.5	0.25	2.75	3	0.5	3	2.75	0
Dysfluency Episodes: (10) Patients: (10)	Mean	3.15	3.5	0.35	3.1	3.4	0.3	2.5	2.95	0.45	2.55	2.95	0.4
	Median	3.25	3.5	0.75	2.75	3.25	0.25	2.5	3	0.5	2.75	3	0.5
Dysphagia Episodes: (23) Patients: (23)	Mean	2.33	2.72	0.39	2.33	3.04	0.72	2.2	2.93	0.74	2.13	3	0.87
	Median	2.5	2.75	0.25	2.5	2.75	0.75	2	2.5	0.5	2.25	2.75	0.75
Dysphonia Episodes: (6) Patients: (6)	Mean	3.83	4.17	0.33	3.75	4.08	0.33	4.17	4.08	-0.08	4.08	4	-0.08
	Median	3.75	4	0.25	3.5	3.75	0.25	4	3.75	-0.25	4	3.75	-0.25

ROOT reports

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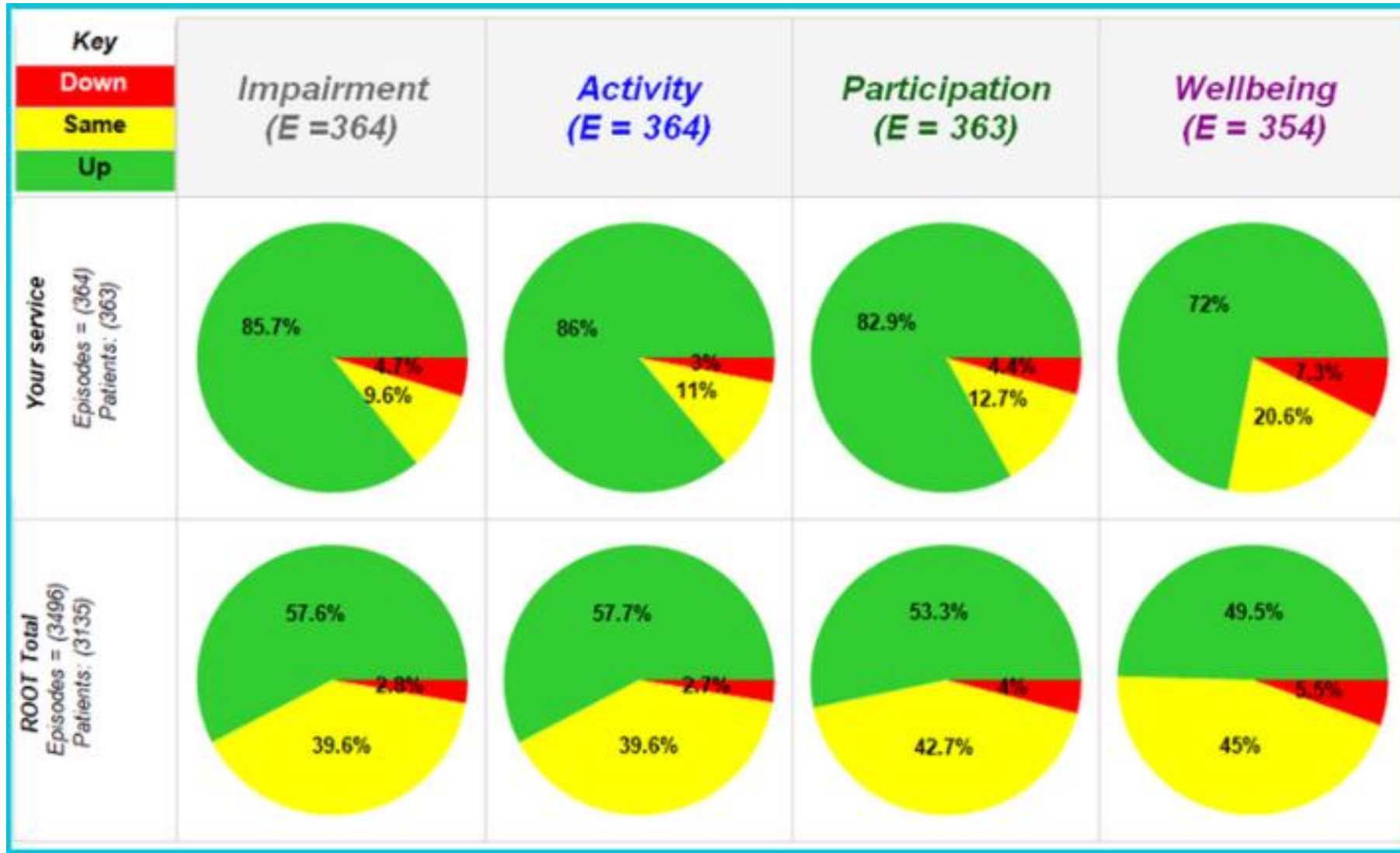
Figure 1: Direction of change in TOMs between initial and final ratings across each domain of the TOMs *(Impairment, Activity, Participation, Well-being and Carer Well-being)* for children and young people aged 0-18 years.

ROOT reports

Average Type	Impairment			Activity			Participation			Wellbeing			Carer Wellbeing		
	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change	Start	End	Change
Mean	2.78	3.9	1.16	2.88	3.99	1.13	3.72	4.48	0.78	3.69	4.44	0.78	4.25	4.5	0
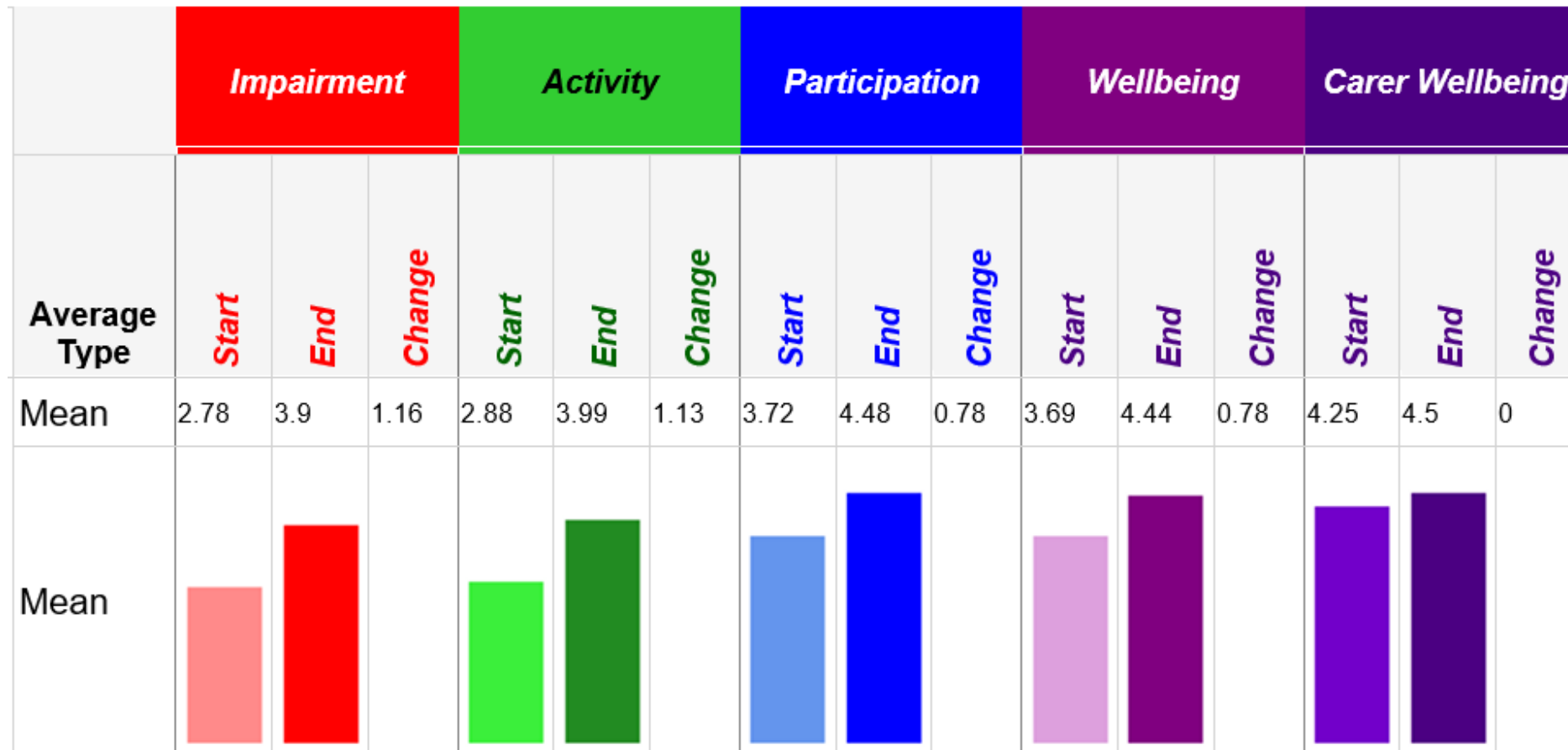
Figure 2: Average TOMs score at the start and end of intervention, and average change across each domain of the TOMs (Impairment, Activity, Participation, Well-being and Carer Well-being) for people with dysphonia.

TOP 5 REASONS TO USE THE ROOT

Ensures high quality care for your patients
Provides a 'temperature check' of your overall outcomes, supporting SLTs with their clinical decision making and reflective practice

Evaluates the impact of your interventions
Assists with identifying what is working well and where there are areas for improvement

"ROOT equips us with a means of highlighting the areas where we have effected positive change"

Supports improvement of your speech and language therapy services
Informs decisions about service delivery and evidences the need for change

Highlights the impact of your service to key stakeholders, including funders and commissioners
Enables SLTs to demonstrate the difference that they make and showcase the value of speech and language therapy

Gives your service a role in influencing - locally and nationally
Provides a wealth of information that can be used by the RCSLT and its members to illustrate the role and impact of speech and language therapy

root@rcslt.org

rcslt-root.org/public/register

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Support available

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Queries and questions

Implementation

Training

Technical support & troubleshooting

Interrogating the data

Interested in finding out more?

- Contact the team: root@rcslt.org

- Visit the RCSLT website: https://bit.ly/3QqZnAn

- Come along to one of our monthly drop-in sessions on Teams, advertised at: https://www.rcslt-root.org

- Join the ROOT professional network https://bit.ly/ROOT-network

- Watch our 'Making Data Count' series of bite sized learning modules RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (rcslt-root.org)

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Acknowledgements

- Thank you to all of the speech and language therapists and services involved in the Outcomes Programme, including those using the ROOT and the Outcomes Programme steering group.

- We also thank colleagues Mark Bedwell and Patrick Guest from Different Class Solutions Ltd. for the production and ongoing development of the ROOT.

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Get in touch to sign up now or find out more: root@rcslt.org

Register your interest at the ROOT

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