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Maximising the impact of speech and language therapy for children with speech sound disorder

Submission date
30/03/2022

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
13/06/2022

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
10/03/2025

Condition category
Other

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Every year over 70,000 children with speech sound disorders receive different types of speech and language therapy. We don't know which is most effective. We want to collect information which will help us work out which type works best. This study will enable us to agree what information we should collect.

Many children have difficulties learning to speak and some of these have a speech sound disorder. These children can be difficult to understand or sound different to their friends. If their problems persist, they are less likely to do well in school and may struggle to make friends or get jobs in adulthood.

Who can participate?
This study is open to qualified speech and language therapists working with specialist experience of working with children with speech sound disorder (SSD) in NHS services.

What does the study involve?
We will use information from previous research to work out what information would be helpful to collect. We will run workshops with speech and language therapists and also with young people and parents of children with speech sound disorders to find out what information they think we should collect. A panel of experts will help us to establish a process for collecting information from NHS services. This will mean that information can be compared across NHS services. We will be able to list the different types of therapy and record the amount of progress children make. We will use this information to determine which types are most effective.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Taking part in this research will help this study to achieve its aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of NHS SLT services for children with SSD, and their families.

Your participation in this research can be recorded as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity.

During the conversations with other professionals in the workshop different opinions may be shared, which could make some participants feel uncomfortable. Members of the study team are trained in conflict management and will be able to support the discussions in a way that means everyone can share their views and have open, positive and constructive discussions.

Taking part in this workshop will mean you need to take around 6 hours out of work. This time is compensated to your clinical service by the study. We can also provide funding towards childcare to support you to take part in the workshops.

Where is the study run from?
Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Unit (BSLTRU) (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
March 2022 to August 2023

Who is funding the study?
This study is part of a larger project funded by a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) study (ref NIHR202766) (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Senior Research Associate Dr Sam Burr, sam.burr@nbt.nhs.uk

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Dr Sam Burr

ORCID ID
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4177-2459

Contact details
Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit (BSLTRU)
Pines and Steps
Southmead Hospital
Bristol
United Kingdom
BS10 5NB
+44 117 41 43951
sam.burr@nbt.nhs.uk

Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)
313900

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
52574

Study information

Scientific Title
MISLToe_SSD: Maximising the Impact of Speech and Language Therapy services for children with Speech Sound Disorder

Acronym
MISLToe_SSD

Study objectives
76,000 children with Speech Sound Disorder (SSD) are referred to speech and language therapy (SLT) in the UK every year. Untreated, SSD leads to poor outcomes in education, employment, and mental health. SLT intervention in the UK is delivered via care pathways and these are often resource rather than evidence-driven and there is significant national variation. There is a pressing need to identify which care pathways are most effective and efficient within NHS service constraints to improve outcomes and maximise cost-effectiveness. Before we can determine which care pathways are most effective and efficient, we must establish a Core Outcomes Set (COS) and minimum dataset.

The objectives of this develop work are therefore to:
1. Develop a protocol for collection of a COS and minimum dataset for children with SSD;
2. Agree a standard diagnostic process for identifying subtypes of SSD;
3. Determine the range and specification of interventions for SSD in UK NHS SLT services;
4. Identify the process for future health economic analysis.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
This study does not require ethics approval because it involves solely NHS staff as participants.

Primary study design
Other

Study design
Multicentre qualitative study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Participants will be qualified professional speech and language therapists with specialist knowledge of working with children with speech sound disorders (SSD). They will take part in a virtual workshop to discuss and agree a standard process for assessing and diagnosing speech sound disorder in children. They will agree a list of interventions for SSD and which ones should be used to treat the different sub-types of SSD. Participants will also be invited to complete an online survey and online card sorting activity to agree labels and descriptions for each of the interventions. A further participant activity will involve a modified Delphi study during which a panel of expert SLTs and academics will agree the diagnostic process, interventions and outcomes to form a Core Outcome Set for SSD.

Interventions
Umbrella review of current literature to inform content for the COS and minimum dataset.
Participatory workshop with parents and SLTs to agree the diagnostic process for SSD.
Expert panel of SLTs and parents to agree a final COS and minimum dataset.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
A comprehensive list of speech sound assessments and interventions, used with children between x and Y, at any point in their treatment pathway. This will be elicited through discussion with the focus group members, and supplemented through a list compiled by the research team through a prior umbrella review.
These outcomes and assessments will then be reviewed using a nominal-group/Delphi technique to understand which of the assessments and interventions are most commonly used in practice.

Key secondary outcome(s)
There are no secondary outcome measures

Completion date
28/02/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Any gender, age, ethnicity or socio economic grouping.
2. Any qualified SLT
3. HCPC/RCSLT registered
4. Specialism or special interest in working with children with SSD

Participant type(s)
Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
6

Key exclusion criteria
Unqualified or unregistered SLTs (HCPC/RCSLT).
SLT with no experience of working with children with SSD.

Date of first enrolment

01/06/2022

Date of final enrolment
01/10/2022

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Scotland

Study participating centre
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Speech and Language Therapy
Albion Road Resource Centre
North Shields
United Kingdom
NE29 0HG

Study participating centre
Solent NHS Trust
Solent NHS Trust Headquarters
Highpoint Venue
Bursledon Road
Southampton
United Kingdom
SO19 8BR

Study participating centre
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Scartho Road
Grimsby
United Kingdom
DN33 2BA

Study participating centre
Sirona Care & Health
2nd Floor Kingswood Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood,
Bristol

United Kingdom
BS15 9TR

Study participating centre
NHS Lothian
Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH1 3EG

Sponsor information

Organisation
North Bristol NHS Trust

ROR
https://ror.org/036x6gt55

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
National Institute for Health Research

Alternative Name(s)
National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not expected to be made available due to participant confidentiality.

IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		29/04/2024	10/03/2025	Yes	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes