

A short guide to the Learning Disability Priority Setting Workshop

27th March 2017, 10am – 4pm

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, 2 White Hart Yard, London, SE1 1NX

What is the workshop for?

The aim of the workshop is to decide the top questions for research into speech and language therapy for children and adults with learning disabilities. We will be working with a list of topics which came from a survey we carried out last year with speech and language therapists and research recommendations from published research articles.

We hope that this will help researchers focus on finding answers to questions which will make the most difference to children and adults with learning disability, their carers and families.

Why is there a workshop to discuss research into speech and language therapy for learning disabilities?

We all want high quality support and care to support communication and eating, drinking and swallowing for children and adults with learning disabilities. One of the ways to work towards this is by building step by step on existing research evidence. The questions that you all set at this workshop will inform future research which will help to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and those that work with people with learning disabilities.

Who will be there?

The people taking part will be service users, carers and healthcare professionals who all have experience of or knowledge about learning disabilities. These people will be making decisions together about the research questions they think should be prioritised.



The meeting will be run by facilitators: Kathy from the National Institute of Health Research, Emma and Lauren from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Their job is to make sure that patients, carers and healthcare professionals are included equally, listened to and have their say.

What will happen?

There will be an introduction at the start of the day to explain how the workshop will run, and to point out the facilitators and organisers.

You will then work in small groups to discuss areas where more research is needed (research topics). With help from one of the facilitators, you will decide together the questions that are linked to this topic and the order of importance of the questions.

The topics will be printed on cards. The facilitator will use a poster template to help everyone develop questions related to the topic and put them into an order, from most important to least important.

There will be refreshment breaks in the morning and afternoon, as well as lunch.

What do I have to do?

Talk about your opinions and experiences.

Everyone at the workshop will have different views and ideas, and they are all valid and important. Everyone will be encouraged to share their views, but also to listen to each other.

We want to know your personal views and experiences on which research questions which could make a difference.

Kathy, Emma and Lauren are there to support you and will make sure you have a chance to have your say.

Do I need to do anything to prepare?

You will be sent a worksheet showing the topic areas we will be discussing at the workshop.

Please read through the list beforehand.

What will happen after the workshop?

The full list of research questions will be distributed to everyone who attends the workshop and a wider group of patients, carers and healthcare professionals in a survey to decide on the top 10 priorities.

The top 10 most important questions for research will be published and reported widely so that researchers and research funding organisations can consider what research projects can answer these.

Who do I contact to find out more or book a place?

Contact Lauren Longhurst, Research and Development Officer:

- lauren.longhurst@rcslt.org
- 0207 378 3029