**Further information about opportunities to be involved in the development of
RCSLT and BATOD guidance: collaborative working between speech and language therapists and teachers of the deaf**

Thank you for your interest in playing a role in the development of guidance for collaborative working between speech and language therapists (SLTs) and teachers of the deaf (TODs).

**Context**

SLTs and TODs both work with children and young people with hearing impairment and it is important that both professions work together collaboratively so that their complementary skills and knowledge lead to optimal outcomes for the child.

In 2007, the RCSLT and BATOD worked together to develop [guidance](https://www.rcslt.org/-/media/Project/RCSLT/2007-batod-rcslt-collaborative-working-position-paper.pdf) on collaborative working between speech and language therapists and teachers of the deaf. Now, over 10 years later, it is important that new guidance is developed to reflect the current context within which SLTs and TODs work.

NB. The RCSLT has developed [general collaborative working guidance](https://www.rcslt.org/members/delivering-quality-services/collaborative-working/collaborative-working-guidance) web pages as part of its new website launched in December 2018. This guidance should be helpful for all SLTs but is not specific to hearing impairment settings.

**Key objectives**

The guidance will:

* Encourage optimal collaboration between SLTs and TODs involved in the care and education of deaf children and young people
* Encourage mutual respect between professions
* Increase awareness and understanding of the skills of the other profession and areas of overlap between the two professions
* Encourage a child-centred approach to care and education, with a recognition among all professions that a ‘one size fits all’ approach does not lead to optimal outcomes for deaf children and young people

The guidance will be developed for speech and language therapists, teachers of the deaf and may also be useful for other professions working with deaf children and young people. The working group that develop the guidance will be made up of both SLTs and TODs.

**Timeframe**

Timeframes will be confirmed following appointment, but it usually takes around five months to develop a guidance document and we estimate that the guidance will be ready to be published in summer 2019.

**Roles and responsibilities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Responsibilities** | **Estimated time commitment** | **Time scale** | **Paid?** |
| **1x Lead Author**  | * Agree and complete the scope form and work plan, with support from the Supporting Author(s) and RCSLT Project Coordinator
* Undertake research, consult with Supporting Authors and write a draft copy of the guidance
* Review and incorporate feedback from Peer Reviewers to prepare a final version, with support from the Supporting Author(s)
 | 5 - 8 days | February – July 2019 | Yes |
| **2 - 5 Supporting Authors** | * Take part in three 1-hour meetings (face to face or virtual) to discuss and agree:
1. the scope
2. the content
3. review feedback from peer reviewers
* Undertake pre-meeting preparation as required
* Sign off the final version prior to publication, alongside the Lead Author
 | 1 - 2 days | February – July 2019 | No |
| **Approx. 15 Peer Reviewers** | * Review the draft guidance document and provide feedback by email
 | 0.5 days | May – July 2019 | No |

NB. A Project Coordinator will support the Lead Author and will be responsible for the day to day management of the project and ensuring that the guidance is developed in accordance with the agreed RCSLT process.