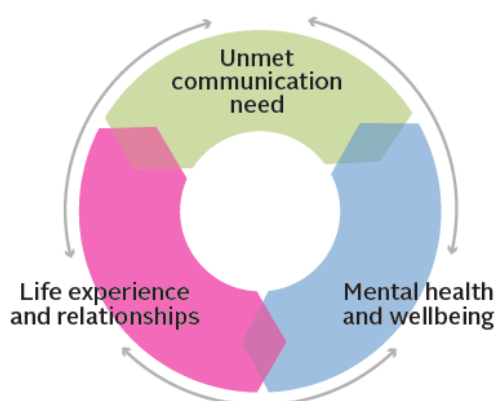


Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Speech, Language and Communication Needs

‘81% of children with social, emotional and mental health needs have significant unidentified language deficits’

Hollo, A. et al. (2014). Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: A Meta-Analysis. *Exceptional Children* 80(2): 169-186.

Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH), Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma are all key issues being analysed and addressed across Devon and the wider STP. However, there is evidence, in line with national findings, to suggest that locally there is a need to increase understanding across all workforces of the intrinsic link between these areas and speech, language and communication needs and the impact these collectively can have on a child or young person as well as their families and communities.



Supporting children and young people's mental health services RCSLT May 2020.

On 23rd October the Improving Access to Communication Services and Support Programme (IACSS) in partnership with Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) hosted a free webinar to explore

- why robust and timely identification of speech, language and communication needs is important to inform interventions and improve outcomes for children/young people and adults
- national and local opportunities and challenges to improving practice and provision for our vulnerable children and young people.

Interest in the webinar was unprecedented and Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) were inundated with applications. 216 professionals that work across a wide range of services and organisations in Devon attended and a large number of professionals were placed on a waiting list.

Key speaker, Dr Val Brooks (Consultant Speech and Language Therapist for SEMH), provided an in-depth overview of up to date research, national guidance and initiatives as well as examples of local case studies.

Participants also heard from Thor Beverley (Devon Youth Offending Service Manager) and Amanda Patterson (Service Manager Youth Intervention Team) about their experiences of working with children and young people with

speech, language and communication needs and the impact it has on life chances.

Using an online survey each participant was asked to consider and record what does current practice, provision and support look like in their organisation and what would be required to improve it further. Working with DCFP the IACSS programme will be using this information to devise a plan to improve our local practice, provision and offer so that collectively we can help to improve outcomes for our children and young people.

If you would like to know more about the Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Social, Emotional, Mental Health please visit:

[Promoting SEMH](#)

[RCSLT supporting children and young people with SEMH](#)