

## Local parent support groups: get involved in the development of the local children's plan.

Make sure SLCN is on the agenda in your local planning.

There are lots of supportive ways you can get involved; it's best to make sure there is a coordinated approach, working closely **with** your **clinical commissioning group (CCG)** or **Local Authority (LA)**, and **with** your local **speech and language therapy service**.

- Have a discussion with the members of your local group about SLCN. Use our discussion guide, presentation, fact sheets and summaries. Make a note of the points you think are most important to your parents and carers.
- Before you approach your LA or CCG or providers think about your ideal outcome. What will make the most difference to children and young people?

You could send out a survey to your members and coordinate this with other local support groups in your area so that you get as much feedback as possible.

- Find the right person or group to contact. There are various possible routes:
  - Check what your forum or group is already part of. If you already have good contacts e.g. through your SEND partnership board, a local SEND committee, then this may be the best way to get involved.
  - Your Local Authority contact: find the special education needs (SEN) lead. You can usually find this on your Local Authority Local Offer website
  - Other people to look for may be the CCG lead, Designated Medical Officer (DMO) or Designated Clinical Officer (CMO) but not every area has one of these.
  - A lead in your speech and language therapy department, or your local speech and language therapy manager by searching on your computer, or through [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) where there are contact details for local services. These will be good people to work with.
- One step at a time: ask directly how you can get involved.
- Arrange a meeting. Here are a few ways you could raise awareness of SLCN when you meet with key people locally:
  - Take a copy of the *Bercow: Ten Years On* report. Download it from [www.bercow10yearson.com](http://www.bercow10yearson.com) or print off one of the two page summaries
  - Use our presentation and fact sheet to explain how many children locally are likely to have SLCN, and the impact this can have.
  - Look at our fact sheet about SLCN in local policy and planning, and ask questions about what it looks like in your local area
  - Share the points you made in your local group discussion or surveys. Add it to the presentation slides on our website.

- Think what **next steps** you want, and make this the last point when you meet with key people. It could be:
  - An invitation to the next planning meeting.
  - A discussion or agenda item on the local Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - Ask for suggestions about who to join up with.
  - Ask if your group is able to request some funding from your CCG/LA for some of your parents to undertake some training in SLCN.
  - Put SLCN on the agenda at the next meeting.

### Resources to help you.

Visit [www.bercow10yearson.com/resources](http://www.bercow10yearson.com/resources) . Here you will find templates for presentations to make your case or have a discussion, fact sheets, report summaries, useful links.