



# **Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update**

## **Easy Read version**

'We do not want to see any child held back from achieving their potential, and that includes ensuring that children with speech, language and communication needs are given the support they need' Theresa May, Prime Minister's Questions, 21 March 2018.

## **Background to Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update**

In 2018, I CAN the children's communication charity and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists asked people what they thought about speech and language services in England. They asked children who need help with their communication, and also parents and staff. This was a very important piece of work.

This report was called Bercow: Ten Years On.

It said that some good things were happening but there is still not enough support at the right time for all the children and young people who need it.

There was a list of ideas to make things better.

The report was written for the people who make decisions about what support is needed and about who gets support.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Update was written in March 2019. This is about how things are going now.

### **Readers note**

This is about the report called **Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update**.

It is short and easy to read. It has some pictures to help people understand what the report says. If you want to see the full report you can find it on the internet at:

<https://www.bercow10yearson.com/bercow-ten-years-on-one-year-on/>

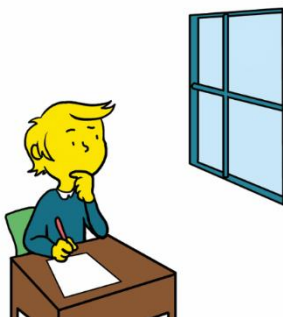
## What did the Bercow: Ten Years On report say in March 2018?



In England there are 1.4 million children and young people who need help with their communication.



Getting support with communication is very important for children and young people.



Many children and young people do not get the help they need when they need it.



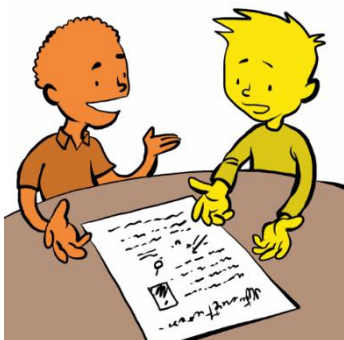
There is not enough good speech and language support for everyone.



Sometimes the support you get depends on the area where you live.

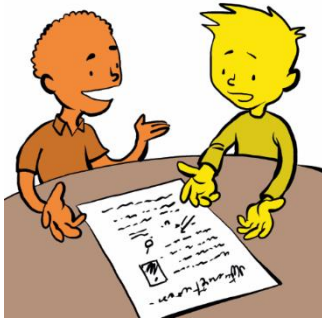


If children and young people do not get the right support their lives may not be as good as other children.



47 things have to happen to make things better. These are called recommendations.

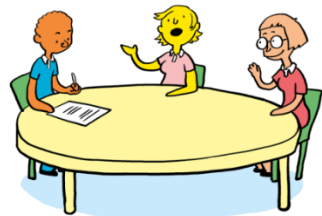
## What has happened since that report was written?



17 of the 47 recommendations have been done.



The Government are giving more information to parents about helping their children's speech and language.



Speech and language experts have worked together with the Department for Education and Public Health England.

Speech and language experts have worked with Public Health England to help them to understand the links between good communication and good mental health.

## These things have also happened



Some children and young people have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This is called SEND for short.

The Government has set up a group to come up with a plan for SEND. This will help the different people who decide about support for children and young people with SEND to work together.

This is called Joint Commissioning.

Local Area SEND inspections have happened. This has been good.

There are two organisations that organise inspections.

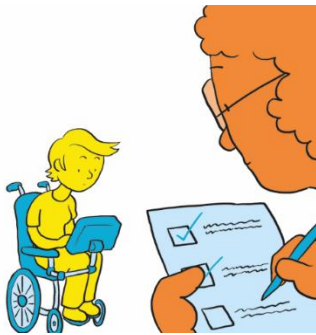
One is called Ofsted and the other one is called the Care Quality Commission. CQC for short.

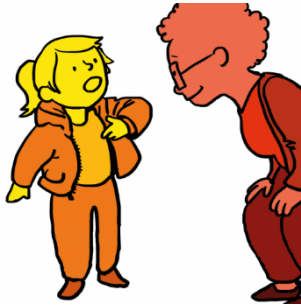
They do Local Area SEND inspections together.

They look at how well all the services in that area are working together to help children and young people.

The inspectors who visit know about support for children and young people who need help with their communication.

There will be more Local Area SEND inspections in the future.





There is a training programme for health visitors.

They will learn about children who need help with their communication.

They will learn how to know which children need support.

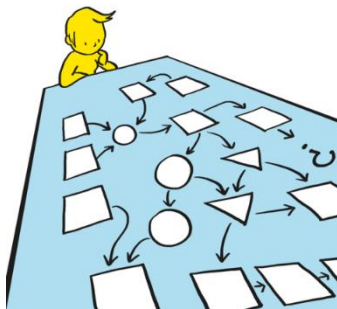
## What happens now?

The report says it is good that there has been progress but there are still lots of things that need to get better.

**There are 5 things that need to happen as soon as possible.**

### 1. Joint Commissioning

There needs to be planning between different organisations to make things better for children and young people who need help with their communication.



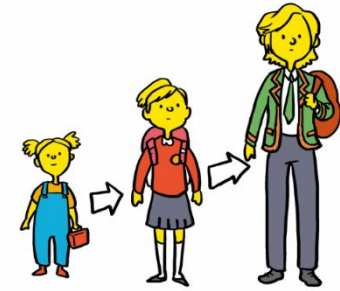
This needs to happen in all local areas so that all children and young people can get the support they need.

If different organisations worked together better, then more children and young people would get the support they need.

## 2. Support for Long Term Communication Needs

There has not been enough change in help with communication for:

- Children and young people at school
- Children and young people who will need help for a long time
- Children and young people who have Developmental Language Disorder. This is called DLD.



The good work that has happened for younger children needs to happen for older children too.

## 3. Professional Development

Trainee teachers and staff working with children and young people in school need to learn more about children who need help with their communication.

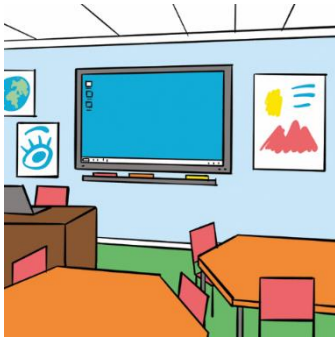


They need to learn that some children and young people with poor mental health need support with their communication.



## 4. Incentivising Schools

The Government needs to help schools:



- Understand how important it is to support children's communication
- Find ways to use their money to get the right support

## 5. Vulnerable groups

Some children and young people are:



- excluded from school
- live in residential care
- have mental health needs

They often need help with their communication.

I CAN and the RCSLT will keep checking that the Government are working to support children and young people who need help with their communication.

They have a joined-up approach for young children, and they need to have a joined-up approach for all children and young people.

## **Speak up for communication and speech, language and communication needs**

We all have something we can do. We all need to speak up for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs, their families and the professionals working with them.

The special Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update web page includes information to support you: <https://bit.ly/2TVHnxS>

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