

Dear all,

Welcome to our second newsletter and update from the [Special Interest Research Group on Language Needs and Mental Health!](#) To those of you who have joined us in the last month, welcome and thank you for your interest. Below we have an important update for SLTs who would be interested in assisting with the consultation, as well as a more general update on what we've been up to.

Consulting young people with language needs

Thank you to the many clinicians who took the time to send us their comments on our plans to consult young people with language needs via speech and language therapists. With your comments, we have now planned our protocol and will be submitting our project for ethical review at the University of York. **We would like to run a workshop with SLTs who would be interested in consulting from their caseloads on the 22nd of April, 12-1pm.** We understand of course that not everyone will be able to make this time – we will therefore record our workshop and send the link to view the recording out to our mailing list. However, we'd encourage you to come along if you can make it.

In this workshop we will cover: 1) The main aims of the activity; 2) Selecting from your caseloads to ensure representation; 3) Acquiring consent; 4) What to cover/how to adapt the activity for the young people you work with; 5) Documenting the consultations and sharing the recordings with us.

Please sign up for this session here, so we can track numbers and plan activities accordingly: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-for-slts-consulting-young-people-on-language-and-mental-health-tickets-147168495933>

What else we've been up to!

In addition to preparing for consulting young people...

- We have been getting ready to consult our other key stakeholder groups as well. We'll be circulating a survey for professionals and parents in April so watch this space!
- We've continued to attend the Emerging Minds SIRG coordinator meetings – did you know we are one of seventeen SIRGs happening this year? [You can check out the others here.](#) At our last coordination meeting, Hannah led a discussion group about the importance of considering participants' communication needs and accessibility for all of the SIRGs' activities, given that we know many children and young people with mental health problems will have a language or communication need.

- We attended “CAMHS around the Campfire”, a session on Maxine Winstanley’s paper ‘Developmental language disorders and risk of recidivism among young offenders’. As many of our mailing list recipients work in youth justice, you might find the resources from this session interesting:
<https://www.acamh.org/event/developmental-language-disorders-young-offenders-and-reoffending-camhs-around-the-campfire/>

We look forward to virtually meeting many of you on the 22nd, and would like to wish you all a lovely start to the Spring.

All the best,

Hannah, Melanie, Melanie and Vicki

Your SIRG Coordinating Group

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