

Dear all,

I hope you have enjoyed the Easter weekend and all the exciting weather it has brought! Welcome to those new to our email updates! We use these emails to keep you up to date with what our SIRG is up to, and ways to be involved. Our SIRG has a few updates and notices for you, including an opportunity for a young person with language needs - this opportunity is with the RCSLT (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists) rather than our SIRG, but it is very relevant to our topic and we agreed to assist!

Podcast about mental health - RCSLT

Colleagues at the RCSLT are planning to do a podcast in May, on the topic of mental health and wellbeing. They would like to include the perspective of a young person with language needs. This could be someone who is currently accessing SLT support, or it could be someone a bit older who could explain how it would have helped them to have this support when they were younger. Please get in touch with Victoria Harris (victoria.harris@rcslt.org) if you know of someone who would be interested.

Reminder - workshop for consulting children and young people with language needs

We want to hear from young people with language needs themselves about their views on researching mental health. To do this, we are asking speech and language therapists to help us, by consulting with young people on our behalf. To support SLTs to do this, we are hosting a virtual workshop on doing this process effectively and safely. Many thanks to those of you who have already signed up for our workshop on the 22nd of April. Details for signing up are here (we will send round a recorded version to our mailing list as well): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-for-slts-consulting-young-people-on-language-and-mental-health-tickets-147168495933> Feel free to contact Hannah (hannah.hobson@york.ac.uk) about this consultation process!

Survey for parents, professionals and researchers

We want to hear from clinicians, parents and researchers about what **they** think are the next big questions surrounding language needs and mental health. We have put together a survey to start collecting views and ideas. [If you would like to tell us what you think research needs to address, please go to our survey.](#) This page will give an overview of the purpose of the survey before asking you to complete a consent form to check you are happy to take part. Please feel free to circulate this survey far and wide!

**All the best from your SIRG team,
Hannah, Melanie C, Melanie F, and Vicki**