

Dear all,

It's been a little while since our last SIRG newsletter! We hope you are all well. Below are some updates, and some news about upcoming activities this summer.

Young person consultations

We are asking SLTs to consult from their caseloads in order for us to gather the views of young people with language needs about the future of research. If you have expressed interest, **we'd really love to hear from as many young people as possible in the next month. Even consulting one person from your caseload would be a huge help!** This is so our summer workshops (more on these below!) can make use of the input from young people. You can watch a recording of a workshop we conducted with SLTs here:

https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/rec/share/QKFuPb5HDX5_TpNiJS-LgH5hHZi9nCJEBM5TPRlgaGxS7a3XPSrnOYUcSu_sxFc.z9IjBjHLfe8CRqCR

Access Passcode: SIRG2021!

Remember that if recording the conversation with the young person is a barrier to taking part, we more than welcome reflective notes in place of audio recordings – this will still allow us to hear from young people and make sure their views are heard. Please get in touch with Hannah if you have any questions about this process.

Dates for summer workshops

We'll be hosting some virtual workshops this summer to develop our research priorities! The current dates are:

July 14th - 1-3pm

August 19th 10-12am

September 20th 10-12am

We'll send round a link to sign up to these events shortly, but for now please try and hold at least one in your diary if you can! These events will include some short talks from researchers, time to examine what our stakeholder engagement activities have revealed so far, and a chance for you to shape what researchers prioritise on the topic of language needs and mental health. Clinicians, families and academics are all welcome and encouraged to come along!

Stakeholder survey - reaching out to educational and mental health colleagues

We have had a fantastic response to our stakeholder survey, especially from SLTs (thank you!). We have had 51 responses so far, and we have now started to organise people's answers to summarise what research ideas people have come up with. We've attached a sneak preview of what we have so far! We now need to ensure we hear from families, educational professionals and those who work in mental health. **If you are part of a multidisciplinary team or have professional relationships with schools, it would be great if you could send the link to colleagues. Below is a short blurb that could accompany the link to encourage people to take part.**

"Do you work with children and young people? You might work in a school, or as part of a mental health team? We are looking to hear the views of educational professionals, mental health professionals, families and clinicians about language, communication and mental health. We want to know what the next big research questions are on these topics. Should we examine how best to treat mental health problems in children and young people with speech, language and communication needs? Do we need a better understanding of how language and communication needs might affect presentation and diagnosis? How could schools help children with language needs to experience better mental health outcomes? All ideas are welcome! Use this link to tell us your ideas: https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAaEWew9CQ4HD02"

What else have we been up to?

Melanie C and Hannah H appeared on the RCLST's Mind your Words podcast to talk about language needs and mental health! In the episode, Hannah talks about some of her recent research, and Melanie reflects on her clinical practice and talks about the new learning journey she's helped to develop, on the links between mental health and communication. You can hear the episode here: <https://player.fm/series/rclst-royal-college-of-speech-and-language-therapists/mind-your-words-children-young-people-and-mental-health>

As ever, please get in touch with any questions and thank you for your engagement with our work! [You can view previous newsletters here.](#)

...We now have a sign up form for our online summer workshops. At these workshops we will delve deeper into directions for future research on language needs and mental health. These workshops will be important for developing clear research priorities, which will be published in a report later this year.

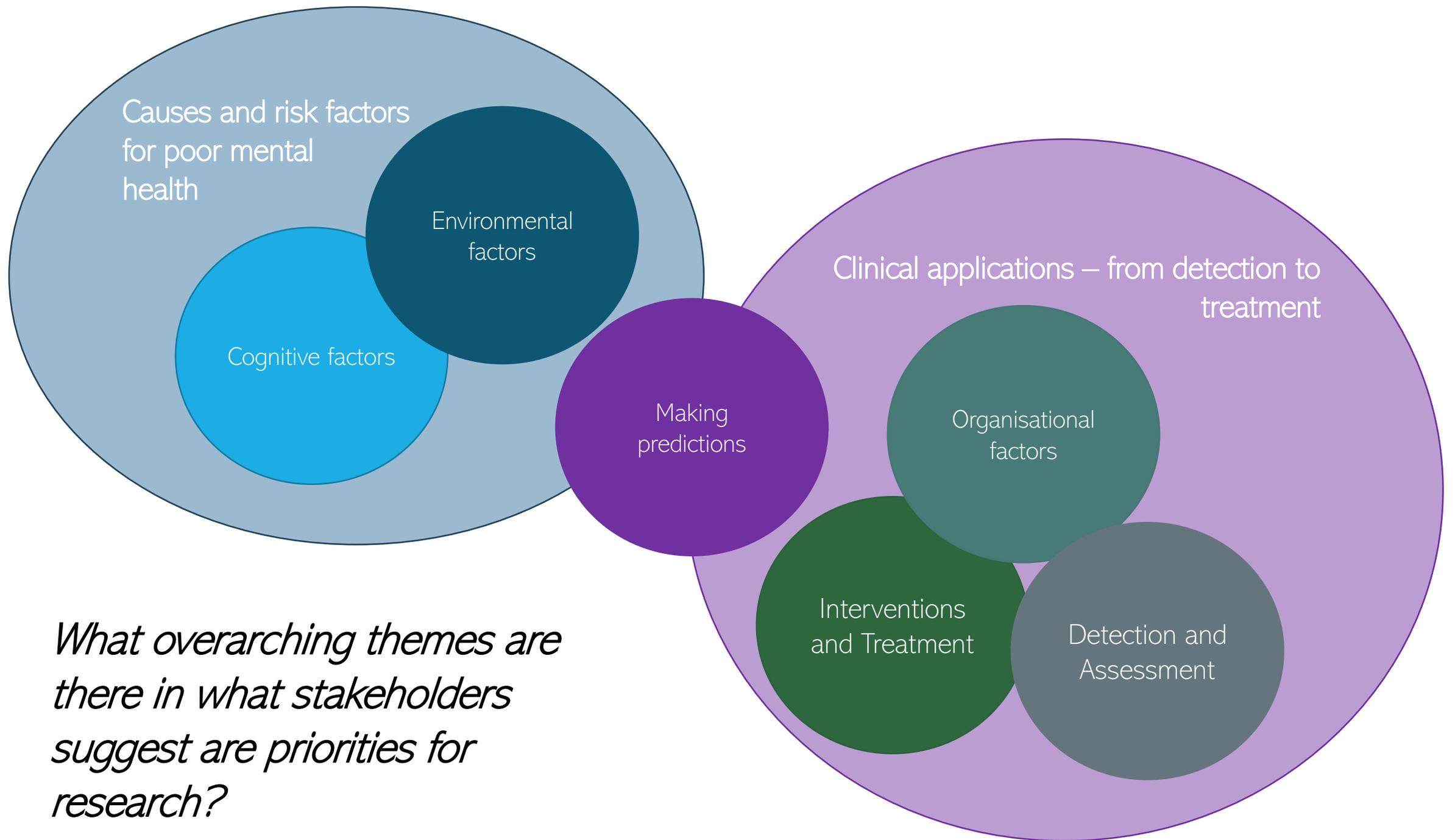
You can tell us which dates you could make here: <https://forms.gle/uUUY2Tu2BwzmSBGs9>

As noted on the form, we will aim to have a mixture of people in all of the workshops - including different professionals, clinicians, and family members. Therefore, if you are able to make more than one day, please indicate this on the form. You can view our draft plan for the day here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-Fs-kUyvCy11WgXYPZURVjdKJmTrMgpSJMumkxtNupE/edit?usp=sharing>

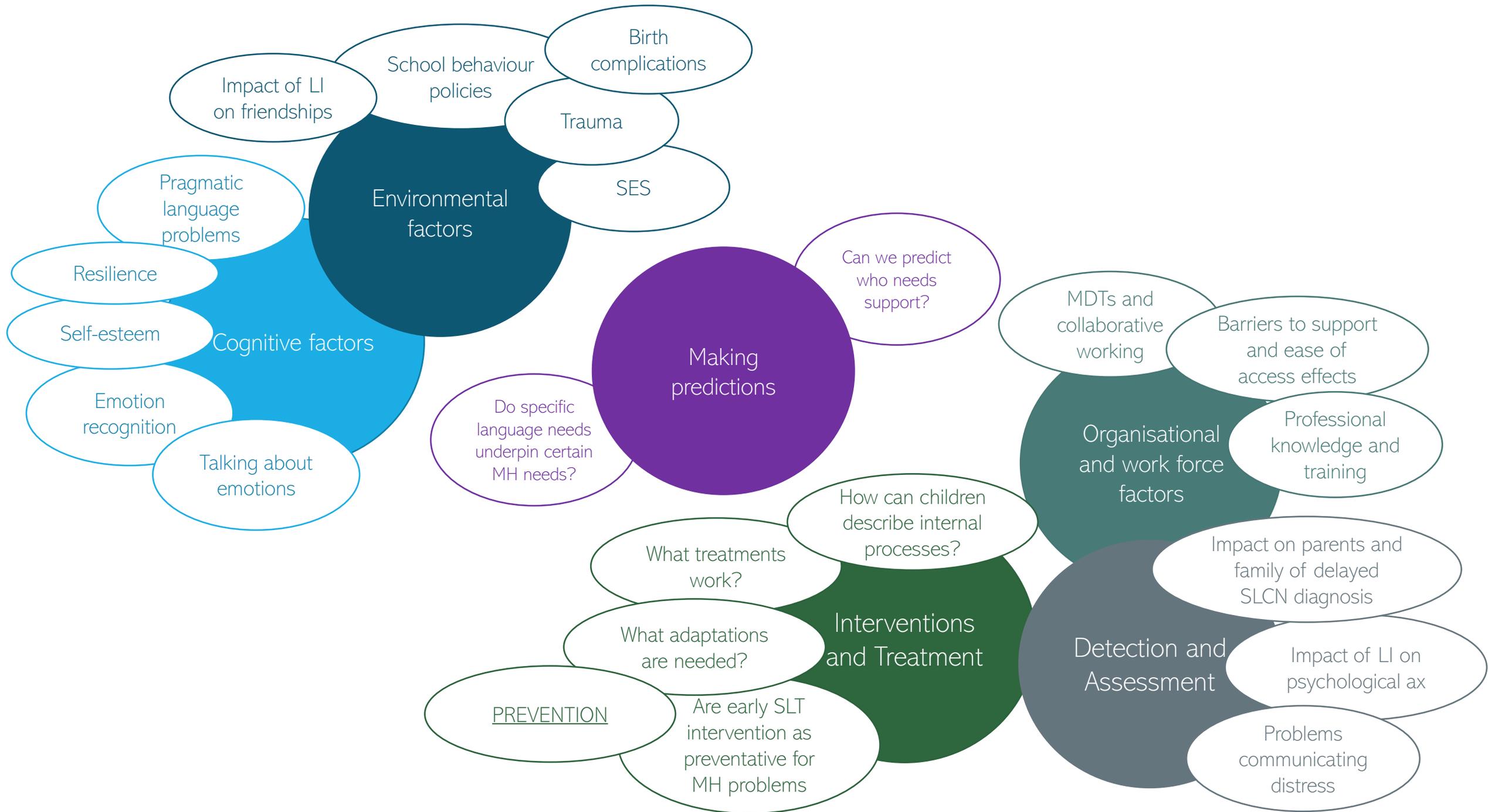
Many thanks,

SIRG Coordinating team

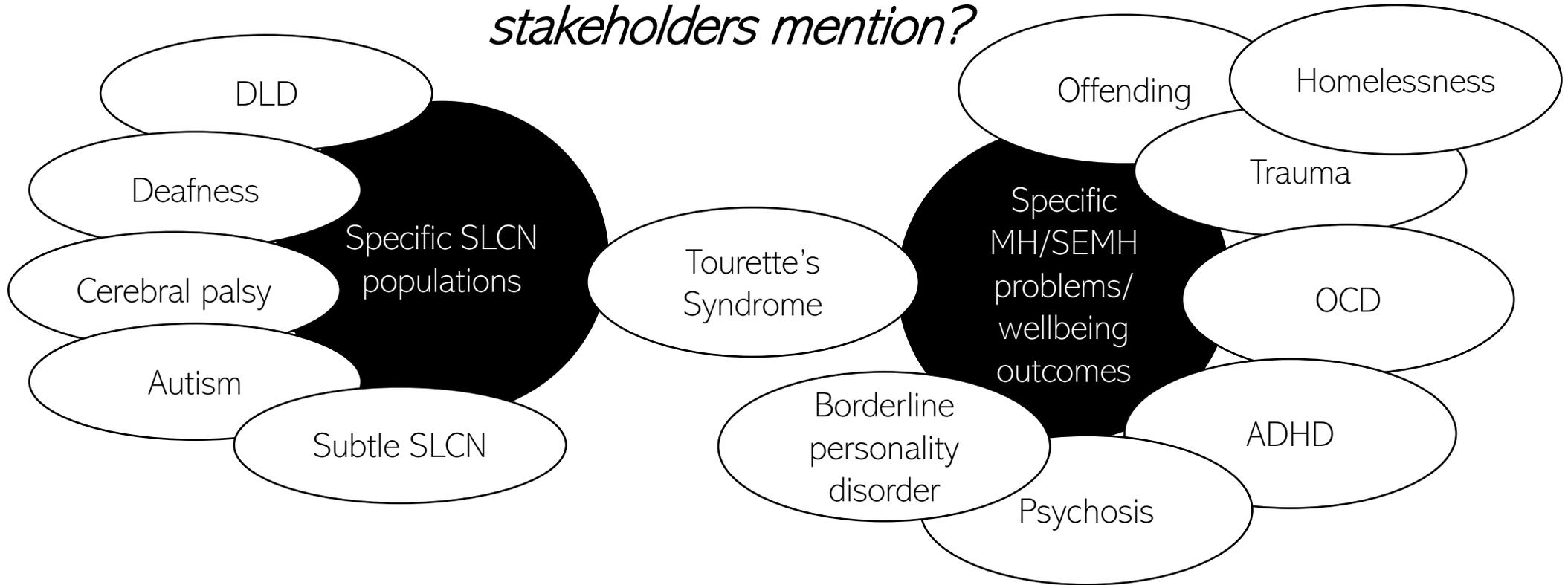
Hannah, Melanie C, Melanie F & Vicki



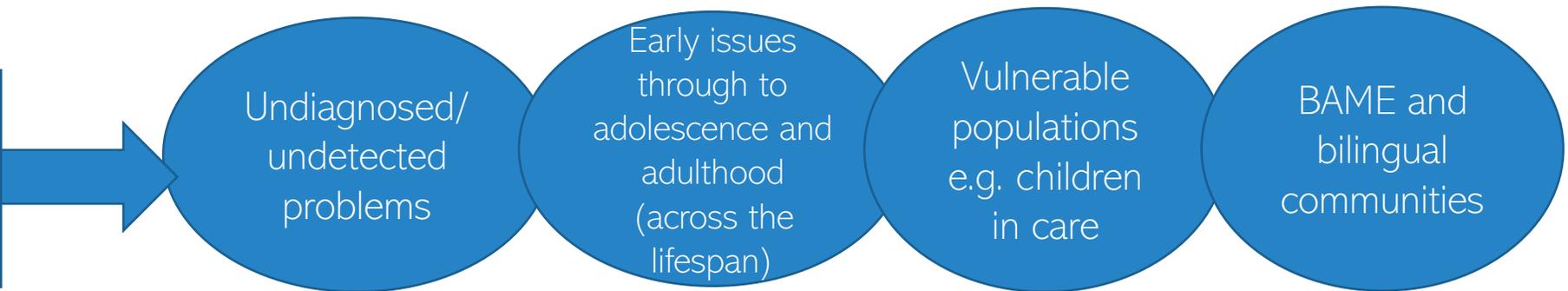
What overarching themes are there in what stakeholders suggest are priorities for research?



What populations and problems do our stakeholders mention?



Factors and groups who require special consideration



What challenges do our stakeholders think we face to do this research?

