

Hello everyone! I hope you have had an exciting return to term and the academic year (if terms are something that are relevant to you!). We have a few updates about our SIRG to share.

- 1) **Workshops on the future of research on language needs and mental health** – We have now completed three workshops, which have provided really helpful feedback on the research themes and priorities we are developing from our survey. Thank you very much to everyone who has been involved with these meetings!
- 2) **Consulting young people** – We are still looking for SLTs to help us consult young people about what they would like future research to focus on. We have also been approved by our local ethics committee to allow **educational professionals and parents** to also help us consult young people. **If you work with/are a parent of a child children aged 11-17 years with speech, language or communication needs, and would be happy to help us hear their views, do get in touch with Hannah who can take you through the process!**
- 3) **Stakeholder survey on future research ideas and challenges** – Our stakeholder survey is still open, and we've had over 80 responses. We'd love to cross the 100 mark! We will need to close the survey in a few weeks in order to compile our report. Please spread the link amongst your networks. We've currently had:
  - a. 12 family members of young people with LI
  - b. 66 professionals (incl. 9 educational professionals, 14 mental health professionals, 31 SLTs and 12 with a different role)
  - c. 13 researchers

The link to the survey is here, and takes 5-10 minutes! [https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cAaEWew9CQ4HD02](https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAaEWew9CQ4HD02)

- 4) **Talking about mental health and language needs with ACAMH** - Hannah Hobson went on the Academy of Child and Adolescent Mental Health's podcast to talk about the links between mental health and language needs, and the need for more research! We've been delighted that some people have discovered our SIRG through hearing about us on this podcast! You can listen to this podcast here: <https://www.acamh.org/blog/language-and-communication-problems-and-their-relation-to-non-language-difficulties-in-conversation-with-dr-hannah-hobson/>

- 5) ***DLD Awareness Day events*** – The EMERALD Lab (led by Hannah) are doing a few things for DLD Awareness Day this year. There is an art competition, open to all, which encourages people to think about the spaces and places in which we use language. They are also hosting an event for medical students to learn more about DLD. These events might be great ways to open discussions with colleagues and peers about the topic of language needs and mental health (and get creative too!). For more details about these events see: <https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/yorkemeraldlab/outreach-and-events>

Have a great weekend!

Hannah, Melanie, Melanie and Vicki