

What is the impact of SLCN?

“The ability to communicate is an essential life skill for all children and young people and it underpins a child’s social, emotional development. Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs include many of the most vulnerable children, those most in need of effective support to reach their potential” (Bercow 2008). Speech, language and communication difficulties, particularly if unsupported, can lead to poor outcomes in childhood and later life e.g. lower educational attainment, emotional, social and behavioural problems, lower economic and employment prospects, criminality.



Educational achievement

- 50 - 90% of children with persistent SLCN go on to have reading difficulties
- Only a fifth of children with SLCN reach the expected levels for their age in English and Maths at age 11



Behaviour/vulnerability

- 2/ 3 of 7-14 year olds with serious behaviour problems have language impairment
- Children with SLCN are more likely to be bullied



Mental health

- 40% of 7 to 14 year olds referred to child psychiatric services had a language impairment that had never been suspected



Criminality

60% of young people in young offender institutions have communication difficulties



Employability

“..communication skills are the most important employability skills and a lack of them in a candidate is a deal breaker... for many employers”. (Sir Michael Rake, BT)



Disadvantage Cycle

- Children from low income families lag behind high income counterparts at school entry by sixteen months in vocabulary.
- Vocabulary at age 5 has been found to be the best predictor of whether children who experienced social deprivation in childhood were able to ‘buck the trend’ and escape poverty in later adult life