



## Sign up!

If you are interested in becoming a Local Champion, or you have any questions about the volunteer role, then please email [lchampions@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](mailto:lchampions@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

We'd also value some information about you and how you see the role of Local Champion supporting what you do now.



[www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)



Promoting the importance of children's speech, language and communication with The Communication Trust

# Become a Local Champion for children's communication

The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 50 voluntary and community organisations with expertise in speech, language and communication. We harness our collective expertise to support the workforce and commissioners to support all children and young people's speech, language and communication (SLC) skills, particularly those with a speech, language and communication need (SLCN).

The Trust relies on local practitioners who are able to spread the word on the importance of speech, language and communication where it is needed most. There is now the chance to harness the vital activity you do and become a Local Champion with The Communication Trust.

## What is the Local Champion role?

Our Local Champions are volunteers who will spread the word about the importance of speech, language and communication by:

- Raising awareness: They champion the cause where they live and work - we love hearing about the great work they do across the country to raise awareness of the importance of SLC and the needs of children and young people with SLCN, we regularly share and publicise their work, both within the group and beyond.
- Striving for best practice: Our Local Champions signpost their colleagues and others to resources, training and information - there are many activities to support the children and young people's workforce and we like to share examples of these in our newsletters and on our website.
- Local policy: We like our Local Champions to have their say and highlight the key issues that concern them in the areas of SLC and SLCN - their practical information about how policy reforms are having an impact on their day to day practice is vital and allows us to echo this in our lobbying and policy work.
- Feeding back: Our Local Champions do excellent work for the cause across the country and in their local areas. We love to hear about how they are making a difference to children and young people with SLCN. We share their examples of good practice to enable peer to peer learning and support.

## Why become a Local Champion?

By becoming a Local Champion, you're helping The Communication Trust to support children's communication to reach the top of the local agenda in your area as well as gaining a higher national profile. The 2008 Berrow review highlighted the significance of this goal, by highlighting a fundamental lack of understanding of SLC and SLCN within organisations, commissioning and the children's workforce.

As a Local Champion you will be our eyes and ears on the ground and will help us to ensure that we are collating and feeding back the brilliant practice that's currently happening. Equally, it's also important for you to be able to feed into our policy work at a national level.

Our aim is to build your Local Champion role with you, and to give you support in areas that would complement and build upon your existing work. You can engage with the role as little or as much as you are able to - we completely understand that your work will mean that there are times when this will be more or less.

## What will I get out of being a Local Champion?

- Access to a dedicated web page of information. This will include information on resources and relevant news from the sector and our Consortium.
- Bespoke email updates with latest news from the Trust as well as current opportunities to be involved in the development of new resources and projects.
- Updates on the political landscape, including information on changes. This will include up-to-date information on policy consultation responses submitted by us as well as briefing papers and links to further information about the latest policy activity.
- Join our Local Champions Facebook group - A chance to network, showcase your good work nationally and share best practise with others.
- A chance to show off your good work - add your role to your email signature and your CV!

