

The Balanced System® Understand phase needs analysis for Wales

The Welsh Government speech, language and communication advisors have commissioned a needs analysis of current support for children and young people's speech, language and communication needs across Wales. The purpose of this review is to:

- support understanding of current provision and need in Wales in relation to the population.
- inform future transformation of SLT service provision to deliver functional outcomes for all children and young people with speech, language, communication (SLC) and eating, drinking and swallowing (EDS) needs across all of the speech and language therapy service areas in Wales, considering existing integrated working across the whole system (health/education/community/voluntary agencies).

What is The Balanced System

The Balanced System® whole system approach to service delivery aims to support services to:

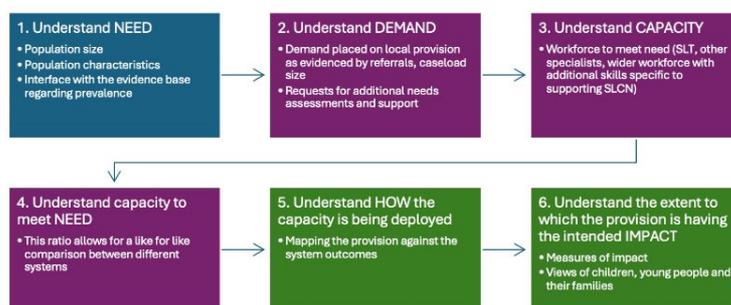
- deliver functional outcomes for CYP
- continually appraise outcomes for delivery of **impact**
- enable simpler and easier access to SLT journeys for CYP and their families
- deliver services in the **most relevant place**
- develop strong **universal and targeted** provision
- promote access to the **right information and support**, available at the **right time**
- provide access to specialist SLT as and when needed for a finite time as part of a whole system approach to meeting need.

Find out more by visiting [The Balanced System website](https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/what-is-it/) (https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/what-is-it/).

Methodology

Using The Balanced System® outcomes framework to understand the current SLCN support and locality working, this will include capturing current quantitative and qualitative data. For speech and language therapy services, this will include:

- baseline self-evaluation tools
- workforce information
- caseload information
- mapping of current provision



Wider system contributions to support for children's speech, language and communication development will be captured through a combination of online surveys and focus groups to capture perspectives from families, schools and early years settings and wider system services such as Health Visitors.

The result of the needs assessment process will be a country-wide presentation. A Balanced System® needs analysis report for Wales will be provided after completion and dissemination of the initial analysis and feedback.