

## **Bercow: Ten Years On**

### **Commission to conduct children and young people focus groups**

#### **Specification of requirements**

#### **Introduction**

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and I CAN invite applications for a commission to conduct focus groups with children and young people as part of the *Bercow: Ten Years On* review. This document sets out the background and requirements for the commission, and details of the application process.

#### **Background**

In 2017/18, I CAN and the RCSLT are undertaking an independent review of the state of provision for children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), entitled *Bercow: Ten Years On*, which will be published in early 2018.

In 2018 it will be ten years since the Government published The Bercow Report: a review of services for children and young people (0-19) with speech, language and communication needs.

The last ten years have seen major changes: an overhaul of the education system, widespread reforms to the SEND system, changes to the health system and changes in government. We are operating in a completely different landscape – in terms of services and politically. In the context of these changes it is imperative that we keep the issue of children's speech, language and communication needs in the spotlight for policy-makers, commissioners, managers and practitioners.

The report will provide information about the current landscape for children and young people with SLCN, making recommendations for future action to ensure their needs are a high priority for the current and future governments.

#### **Evidence collection to date**

The review launched in January 2017, and to date we have collected evidence through a variety of methods:

- Call for written evidence
- Online surveys of
  - practitioners
  - parents/carers
  - employers
  - commissioners
  - children and young people
- Oral evidence sessions
- Desktop research

#### **Children and young people focus groups**

Following the evidence gathering we intend to carry out a series of focus groups with children and young people to gather richer data to gain a greater understanding of the views of children and young people, and enhance the data already gathered. The questions asked will mirror those within the online survey.

We intend to carry out five focus groups in a range of settings with groups of children and young people across the age ranges. The focus groups will:

- Explore children’s experiences and preferences for the help and support they receive for their talking
- Elicit ratings about the help and support that they receive for their talking
- Explore to what extent children and young people are involved in making decisions about the support they receive for their talking

Ideas and guidance for activities will be provided, but the successful applicant will be expected to give significant input into the design of tasks actually carried out. We welcome additional ideas for successful ways of eliciting response to the areas outlined above.

### Requirements:

- Five focus groups (involving approximately 40 children and young people in total) will be carried out in a range of settings: mainstream primary and secondary, primary and secondary special schools or specialist provision. We are aiming to consult with children between the ages of 5 – 19.
- The participants and location will be sourced by the *Bercow: Ten Years On* project team, although contribution to this process is invited from the successful applicant.
- The successful applicant will be required to collate and analyse the information gained from the data collection activities into a concise report to submit to the *Bercow: Ten Years On* project team.

### Timetable and outputs

An outline of the timings for activities is provided below.

Activity	Date
Focus groups commissioned	20 <sup>th</sup> September
Contract agreed	20 - 25 September
Set up focus groups	By 6 October
Conduct focus groups	9-20 October
Analysis and write up	20-27 October
Submit report	31 October

The output of the project should be a concise report drawing together the results of the focus groups (up to a maximum of 8 pages).

All data collected for the project should be provided electronically on completion of the contract or when requested.

### Costs

The budget for this piece of work is a maximum of £3500 plus VAT (including expenses)

### Application process

The successful applicant should:

- Have experience of working with and supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (and current DBS certificate)
- Have experience of facilitating discussion groups
- Have experience of analysing and summarising qualitative data
- Be flexible in order to make the interviews at the times convenient to the interviewees
- Be able to show evidence of carrying out similar work to a high quality and to deadline

Applications should therefore include the following details:



- The names and relevant experience, in terms of subject knowledge and skills, of those involved
- Time commitment to the project (in days)
- Timetable
- Costs – this will act as one of the criteria used to assess applications

Applicants should submit a concise proposal of no more than two sides of A4 to [Bercow10@ican.org.uk](mailto:Bercow10@ican.org.uk) 9am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September