

Timeline of the development of speech (and language) therapy in the UK and its professional body to 2010

Date	Event
1894	Publication of <i>The Disorders of Speech</i> by Dr J Wyllie.
1906	Central School of Speech Training and Drama Art established by Elsie Fogerty.
1906	Classes for stammerers formed in Glasgow and Manchester, used Berquand method (complete silence followed by re-education of articulation).
1911	First hospital SLT clinic in the ENT Department, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Cortland MacMahon was appointed Instructor for Speech Defects.
1913	Speech clinic attached to the Almoner's Department, St Thomas's Hospital, London opened by Elsie Fogerty.
1914-1918	World War One The war produced a new range of types of case for speech therapy including shell-shock and head injury. Various titles were being used, eg speech correctionist, remedial speech trainer, stammering instructor.
1918	Speech Department established at the West End Hospital, London by Drs CC Worster-Drought and E Scripture.
1920s	Two-year courses for remedial speech trainees offered in the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases and National Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, London.
1929	First professional training school for speech therapists opened by Winifred Kingdon Ward, attached to the West End Hospital, London.
1930s	Speech therapy work was initially voluntary, by now more paid appointments were available and the speech therapist emerged as a separate professional – 'the age of individualism was passing, and the beginnings of the corporate desire for a separate and unified profession could be seen' (Sykes, 1962, p. 12).
1934	Founding of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama (Remedial Section). Members were mainly from an elocutionary background. This became the Association of Speech Therapists (AST) in 1943.
1935	Founding of British Society for Speech Therapists (BSST), with members mainly from a hospital background, and its journal <i>Speech</i> .
1937	Anne McAllister awarded DSc for her book <i>Clinical Studies in Speech Therapy</i> .
1939-1945	World War Two The second world war did not produce new types of clinical case, but strengthened speech therapy links with other professions (eg neurology, psychology) into more of a recognisable team approach. The Bangour Head Injuries Unit led by Professor Norman Dott included a full-time speech therapist. Speech therapists were also included in plastic surgery unit teams.
1942	Registration of speech therapists with the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries began. This board would only register SLTs from one organisation and chose BSST, so the AST and the BSST were obliged to amalgamate. Their 1943 National Register of Medical Auxiliary Services register included both organisations as an interim step.
Summer 1943-October 1944	Speech Therapists Interim Committee then the Provisional Council of the College of Speech Therapists (CST) met.
1944	Education Act made provision for children with speech problems compulsory rather than permissive. Severely subnormal children (now children with severe learning disabilities) were still deemed ineducable. School Health Service set up (Section 48).

1944	31 March – enrolment of members to CST began.
1944	Full registration as Medical Auxiliaries granted to all CST members.
1945	Ministry of Education 'Handicapped pupils and school health requirements' – all education authorities were required to provide treatment for speech defective children.
1945 (6 January)	CST's formal ceremony of foundation at its members' first general meeting: amalgamation of AST and BSST. Delayed from late 1944 because of war conditions.
1945 (April)	First CST conference held in London.
1945	First three-year courses leading to CST diploma and licence to practise.
1947	Moor House School for Speech Defective Children opened.
1948	Formation of the NHS, SLTs aligned to neurosurgery, geriatrics, paediatrics and ENT departments.
1948	First diplomas awarded by CST.
1948	King George VI became royal patron of CST.
1951	Cope Report on recruitment and qualifications of medical auxiliaries.
1952	Article published by Miss Joyce Wilkins (CST Fellow) in the USA's <i>The Quarterly Journal of Speech</i> , which describes the development of the profession to that date.
1955	CST withdrew from the Register of Medical Auxiliaries and began to publish its own register.
1956	The Speech Therapists' Professional Association was established as a negotiating body for salaries and conditions of service for speech therapists, separate from CST.
1957	All matters concerning salaries and conditions of work handed over from CST to the Speech Therapists' Professional Association.
1959	HRH Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother became CST royal patron.
1959	CST stood outside the Professions Supplementary to Medicine Bill on the grounds that the profession was related to but independent of (not supplementary to) medicine.
1961	Publication of <i>A Profession Concerned with Disorders of Communication</i> , a memorandum prepared by Muriel Morley for CST.
1967	First speech therapy graduates, from Newcastle University.
1967	The Speech Therapists' Professional Association became the Union of Speech Therapists.
1969	Committee of enquiry into speech and language therapy services set up under Randolph Quirk.
1971	MSc in Human Communication offered at the School for the Study of Disorders of Communication (Blackfriars - now City University), awarded via Guys Hospital Medical School, University of London.
1971 (England) 1974 (Scotland)	Education Acts: all children now entitled to education.
1972	Quirk Report on speech and language therapy services included among its recommendations that there should be six speech therapists per 100,000 population.
1974	NHS reorganisation placed speech therapists within the NHS as recommended by Quirk, even if working in education.
1975	Halsbury Committee recommended revised grading structure and improved pay scales for speech therapists.

1975	Betty Byers Brown was appointed the first speech therapy adviser to the Department of Health and Social Services.
1975	The Union of Speech Therapists merged with the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff (ASTMS).
1976	The Court Report identified children as having different health needs from adults.
1978	The Warnock Report on special educational needs recommended integration of children in mainstream education.
1980	The Clegg Report (on pay comparability) was published.
1981	The Education Act introduced 'special educational needs', based on the Warnock Report.
1984	First all graduate entry into the profession.
1987	First 'Speak Week', a national campaign to highlight the needs of people with communication problems, initiated by the College of Speech Therapists and VOCAL, sponsored by BT.
1989	Enderby and Davies (1989) estimated the need for speech therapists in the UK to be 26 per 100,000 population - more than four times that suggested in the Quirk Report (1972).
1990	Robert Fawcus became the first speech therapy professor in the UK.
1990	Speech therapists voted to change their job title to speech and language therapists.
1991 (30 May)	New title formally announced – speech therapists became speech and language therapists. Publication of <i>Communicating Quality</i> (professional standards and guidelines) by the now College of Speech and Language Therapists (CSLT).
1995	Golden jubilee year for CSLT. <i>A History of the College, 1945-1995</i> , edited by Sandra Robertson, Myra Kersner and Shirley Davis, was published. CSLT becomes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT).
1997	Network for retired speech and language therapists was established.
1997	European Union equal pay for equal value cases - victory.
1998	RCSLT members voted in favour of regulation under the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM).
2002	CPSM started registering speech and language therapists.
2002	Health Professions Council took over the function of the CPSM.
2003	HRH The Countess of Wessex became RCSLT's royal patron.
2004	Government launched Agenda for Change.
2008	Bercow Report published.

Sources: NRMAS registers, Sykes' landmarks to 1962, Bulletin content analyses to 2010, History 1995, Quirk Report, Enderby and Davies (1989)

(Black font = SLT development, Green font = external event impacting on SLT development)

Linda Armstrong and Jois Stansfield, December 2020