SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES FOR COMMISSIONERS FROM THE BETTER COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME

1. Commissioners need to begin the needs analysis process by deciding and **clearly stating** the target population for which they are commissioning. Usually this will be for the **full range** of needs and therefore will be a **broader group** than those defined by the SEN category of SLCN

   This would include **all** children and young people who have difficulties with their speech, language and communication, regardless of the reasons why

2. Commissioners need to apply **both** predictive **population based** calculations based on prevalence based on a **broad definition of SLCN** and analysis of **real time profiling data** from the SEN system in order to **triangulate the need** in a given area

3. Commissioners also **need to complete a qualitative whole systems map** of the interventions provided for children and young people in order to understand how data may be impacted by existing positive interventions

4. Commissioners need to **collect data on the key risk factors** within the local area or school and **understand the impact** on predicted SLCN

5. Going forward, **prior attainment data** and **pupil premium calculations** may need to be used more as part of the needs analysis as the SEND reforms and changes with the SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 are implemented

6. Commissioners need set the **scope** of their commissioning relative to the spectrum of **universal, targeted and specialist** need. Understanding that **all levels are essential** to achieving a holistic offer for children and young people

7. Commissioners need to understand the necessary requirements to facilitate **good universal services** (including the commissioning of specialists to provide training and support to the wider workforce)

8. Commissioners need to understand that interventions at the targeted and specialist level need to be **made available flexibly and not tied to diagnostic pathways**

9. Commissioners need to ensure that providers demonstrate that they are either using **evidenced based interventions** or are **engaged in evaluative activities** which will add to the emerging evidence base

10. Commissioners should endeavour to consider **cost effectiveness** as well as cost in commissioning

11. Commissioners need to ensure that **outcomes that drive commissioning intentions** include those that are of **high importance to parents and young people** as well as more traditional measures

12. Commissioners must to **involve children, parents and young people** in the commissioning process so that they can influence the service provision

Better Communication
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