

## Speech and Language Therapy Support Worker

Speech and language therapy support workers assist speech and language therapists in helping clients with a wide range of speech, language and eating and drinking difficulties. These can be due to a range of conditions, including physical disabilities, illness or injury. They work with patients of all ages.

### The Work

You could be:

- working with the speech and language therapist to plan a course of therapy
- implementing therapy tasks and activities
- preparing therapy materials, equipment and treatment rooms
- monitoring and evaluating client progress during the course of therapy
- working with clients on a one to one or group basis
- guiding and supporting the client through treatment
- listening to the concerns of families and carers, and giving advice
- providing clinical information to other health professionals such as doctors, psychologists, nurses and other therapists
- maintaining accurate and up to date case notes.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Pay rates can vary depending on whether you are working with the NHS, with a private practice, or are self-employed. Within the NHS Agenda for Change scales speech and language therapy support workers salaries are on Band 2, £19,609 to £21,615 a year. With experience this can rise to Band 3, £21,709 to £23,603 a year.

Assistant practitioner speech and language therapy support workers are on Band 4, £23,709 to £25,982 a year. The current pay scales are from April 2021.

### Conditions

- You may work in a hospital, clinic, health centre or child guidance unit, school or nursery.
- You would work under the supervision of a registered speech and language therapist.
- You may need to travel when visiting clients in schools or in their own homes.
- Your hours are mostly regular at around 37.5 hours a week.

### Getting In

- A good general education is useful including English and Maths.
- You can enter through a Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- You may need to sit an entrance test.
- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a health care setting would be an advantage.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.
- A knowledge of Gaelic or community languages maybe an advantage in some parts of the UK.
- A driving licence is also useful.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on well with people from all backgrounds and of all ages
- sensitive, patient and understanding
- able to gain the client's trust
- able to motivate clients
- an excellent listener and communicator
- a good organiser
- IT skills
- able to work in a team with colleagues
- able to work alone, without supervision.

## Training

- Training is usually on the job, supervised by an experienced speech and language therapist.
- You will follow a supervised programme of training including an introduction to the departments and its procedures; health and safety; and risk management.
- You may be able to study for a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.

## Getting On

- With experience and completion of the Scottish Vocational (SVQ) Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 7, you may gain promotion to become an assistant practitioner or a supervisory post.
- You might specialise in a particular area, such as paediatric speech and language therapy or working with stroke patients.
- You can join the Royal College of Speech and Language Specialists (RCSLT) as an assistant/associate member and keep your skills up to date through courses, conferences and seminars.
- This role plus further higher education, could lead to a career as a [Speech and Language Therapist](#).

## Contacts

### Disclosure Scotland

Tel: 03000 2000 40

Email: [response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot)

Website: [www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland](http://www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland)

Twitter: @DisclosureScot

**NHS Scotland Careers**

Website: [www.careers.nhs.scot](http://www.careers.nhs.scot)

Website (2): [jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://jobs.scot.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

**Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)**

Tel: 020 7378 3012

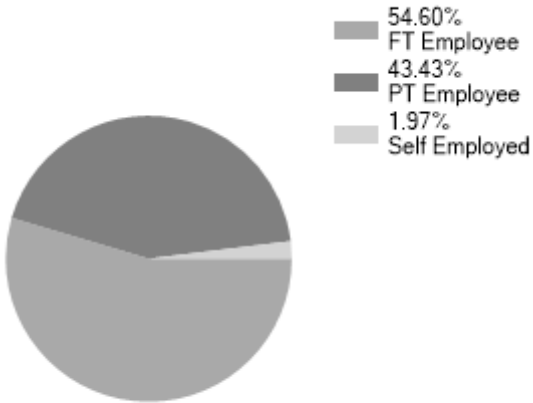
Website: [www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org)

Twitter: @RCSLT

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RCSLT](http://www.facebook.com/RCSLT)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



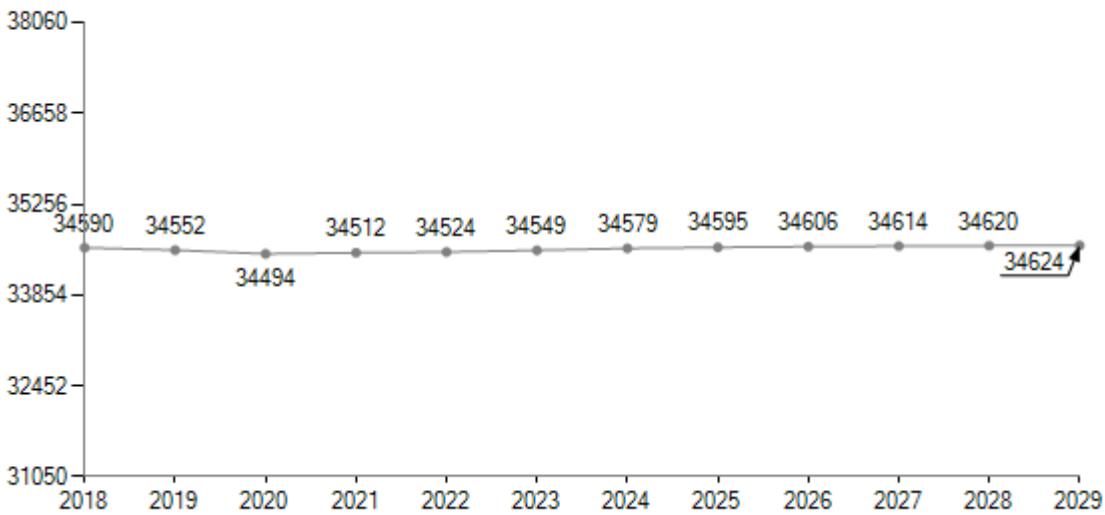
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2018	0.05%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)