

Title: Speech Language Therapists and Vocal Rehabilitation Coaches: building bridges and developing a symbiotic relationship.

Applicant: Pippa Anderson

Address: Amerston Cottage, 12 West End. Sedgefield. TS21 2BS.

Telephone: 07825 301873

Email: pip.anderson@rocketmail.com

Affiliation: Research undertaken with Newcastle University (MLitt Music).

Current supervisors: Professor David Clarke and Natalie Eastwood (SLT).

Also previously supervised by: Professor Stephen McHanwell, Dr Nicole Lallini.

Preference: Oral presentation.

Speech Language Therapists and Vocal Rehabilitation Coaches: building bridges and developing a symbiotic relationship.

Abstract

Sataloff, (2017)¹ acknowledged that teachers of voice have been working alongside speech language pathologists in the USA for over 30 years and that here in the UK, such collaborations are emergent.

The British Academy of Performing Arts Medicine (BAPAM) are currently leading the development of competencies for voice teachers who wish to become Vocal Rehabilitation Coaches (VRCs) and yet, there is no specific training route. As one of only three VCRs in the UK who are registered with BAPAM, the researcher understands the barriers to getting the experience necessary to meet the competencies.

One difficulty is getting access to clinical training. Only a handful of voice clinics offer speciality services for performers. Through a volunteer placement at one of these clinics – which is situated at Freeman Hospital – the researcher is gaining insights which are underpinning investigations into training routes for VRCs. Further to this, an extensive investigation into relevant journals and academic books has been undertaken and data has been captured through an online survey. This project is in mid-development, findings are currently being triangulated.

¹ Sataloff, R, T (2017) Surgery of Voice, Canto Lecture Series, (Online Lecture). [Accessed 15.12.2017]

Early analysis suggests that collaborations in a clinical setting have huge benefits for both the SLT and the VRC providing learning opportunities for both parties and improving patient outcomes. Further to this, the evidence suggests that in order to better protect the singer, anatomy and physiology of the voice modules could be included in all performance programmes for all singing majors and these units could be SLT led. The study has also revealed recommendations for the development of a training route for VRCs and, in the long term, new modules facilitating singing training for would enhance the confidence of SLTs.