



Dementia Is Our “Biggest Expanding Caseload”: Building Capacity In The Uk Speech And Language Therapy Profession

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Introduction:

Dementia is a relatively **recent addition to the speech and language therapist’s** clinical role.

Given the increase in prevalence of dementia, **building skills and capacity** within the profession is essential.

This will ensure speech and language therapists can **meet the needs** of this expanding population.

This program of research aims to:

- develop appropriate **education and training resources**.

Methods:

These studies employ a **range of qualitative, consensus and mixed-methods**.

- Student speech and language therapists were recruited from a leading UK university to share experiences and views in semi-structured interviews about a range of placement experiences.
- Practicing speech and language therapists were recruited from the UK speech and language therapy primary progressive aphasia network to participate in nominal consensus groups on developing assessment and intervention resources.
- Lecturers were recruited from 19 universities across the UK to survey and follow up focus groups to share experiences and views on education of dementia on clinical training courses.

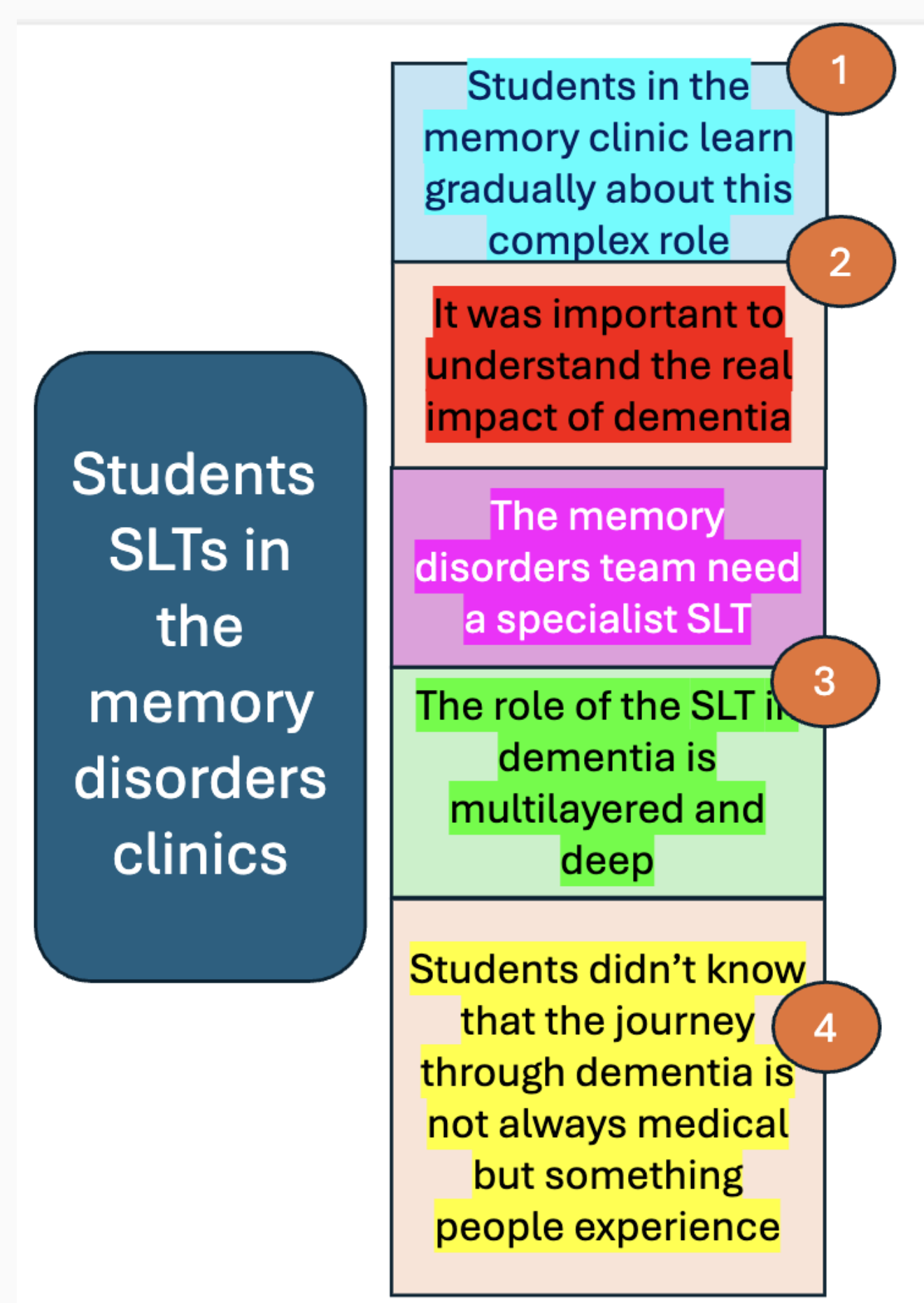
Discussion:

Results from all these studies emphasises the **need for a paradigm shift** in the teaching of student speech and language therapists and delivery of services.

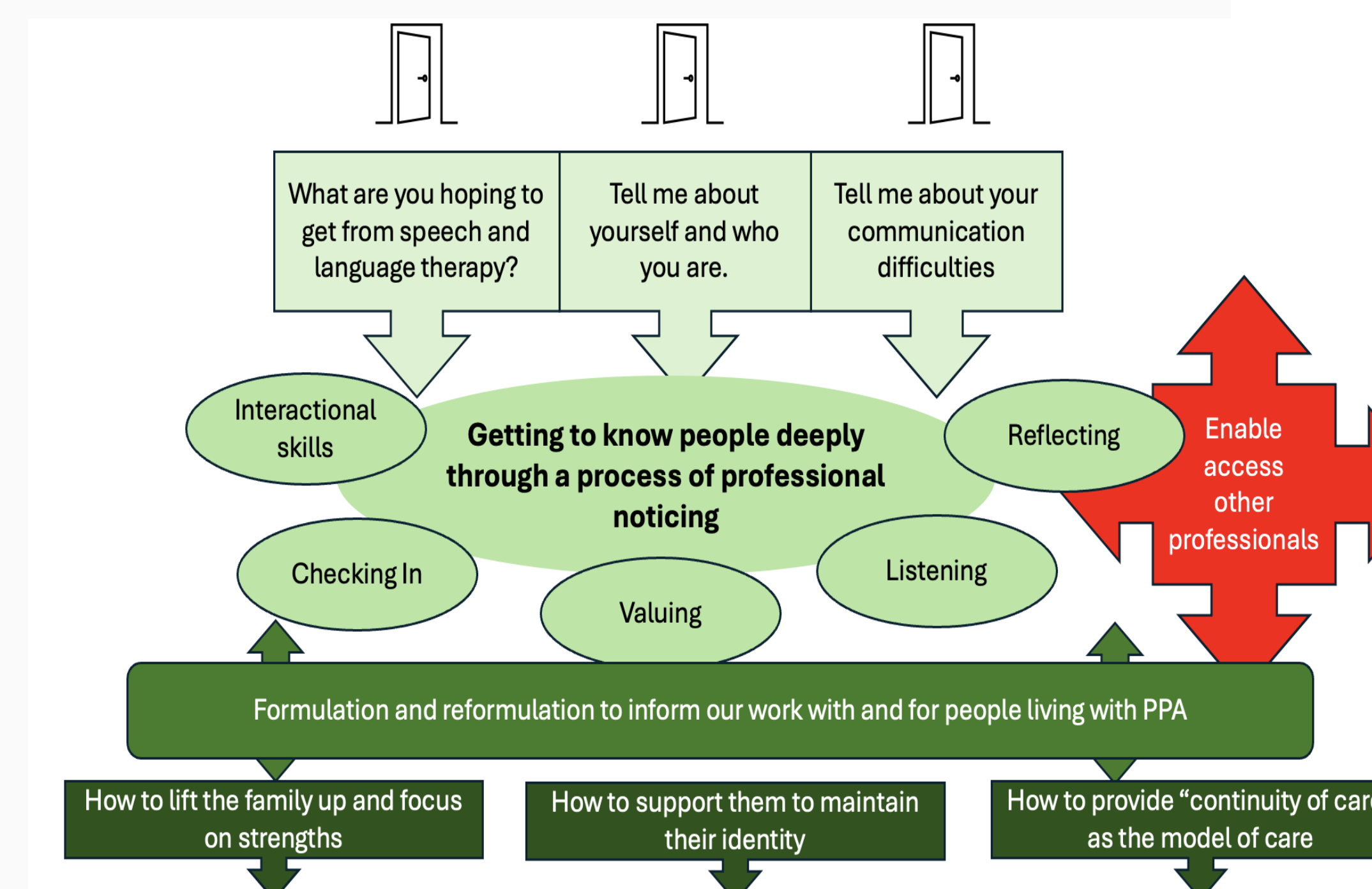
Future research should work with people with dementia to further **refine the core components for teaching student speech and language therapists**.

Results

a) Clinical placements in dementia for student SLTs

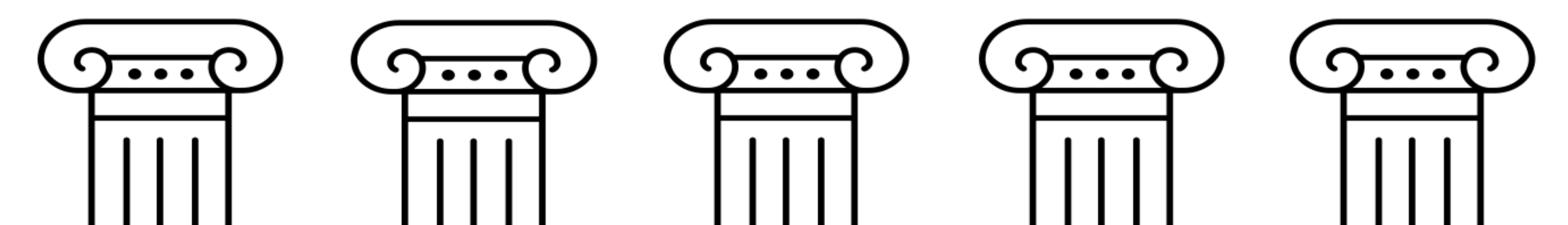


b) Case history taking with people with dementia



c) Pillars of SLT training on dementia

Person centered care for speech-language therapy teaching on dementia



1. Challenge stereotypes in dementia
2. Focus on speech, language and communication across the dementias
3. Building a relationship with people affected by dementia
4. Goal setting for a progressive trajectory
5. Prepare to advocate for gold standard

