

North East SLT Research Symposium

Influencing practitioners of the future:
Students' experiences of volunteering with
trans and non-binary
voice and communication clients



Dr Sean Pert

Waiting lists

- “Soul destroying” wait for treatment (Davis, 2019)
- Speech and language therapy ranked 5th most important clinical service
- Cost of private therapy, and travel to specialists often cited barrier



Local voice services



- Trans and non-binary client referrals seen as highly specialist
- Few specialist speech and language therapists
- May be unaware of local charity expertise

Partnership working



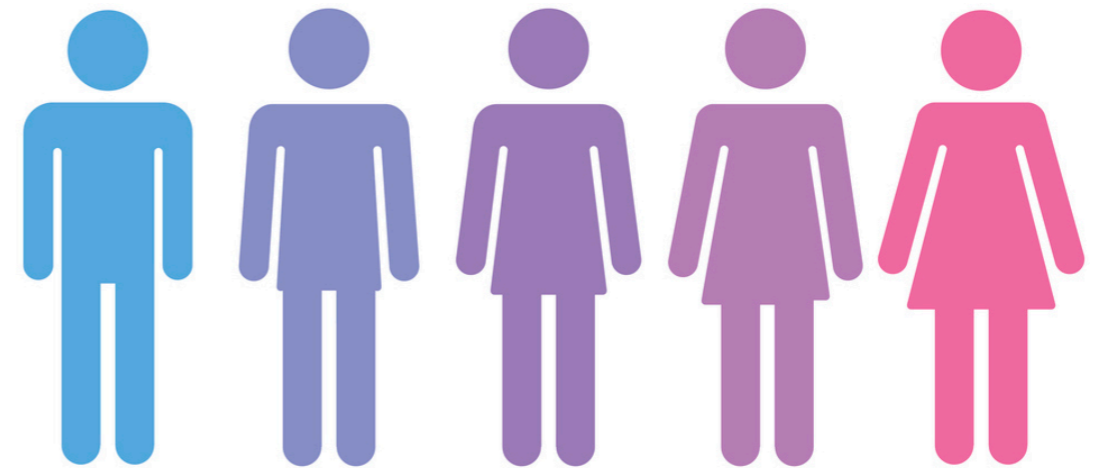
The University of Manchester



Clients



- Trans men
- Trans women
- Age range
- >120 clients have attended





Breathing techniques & Vocal hygiene

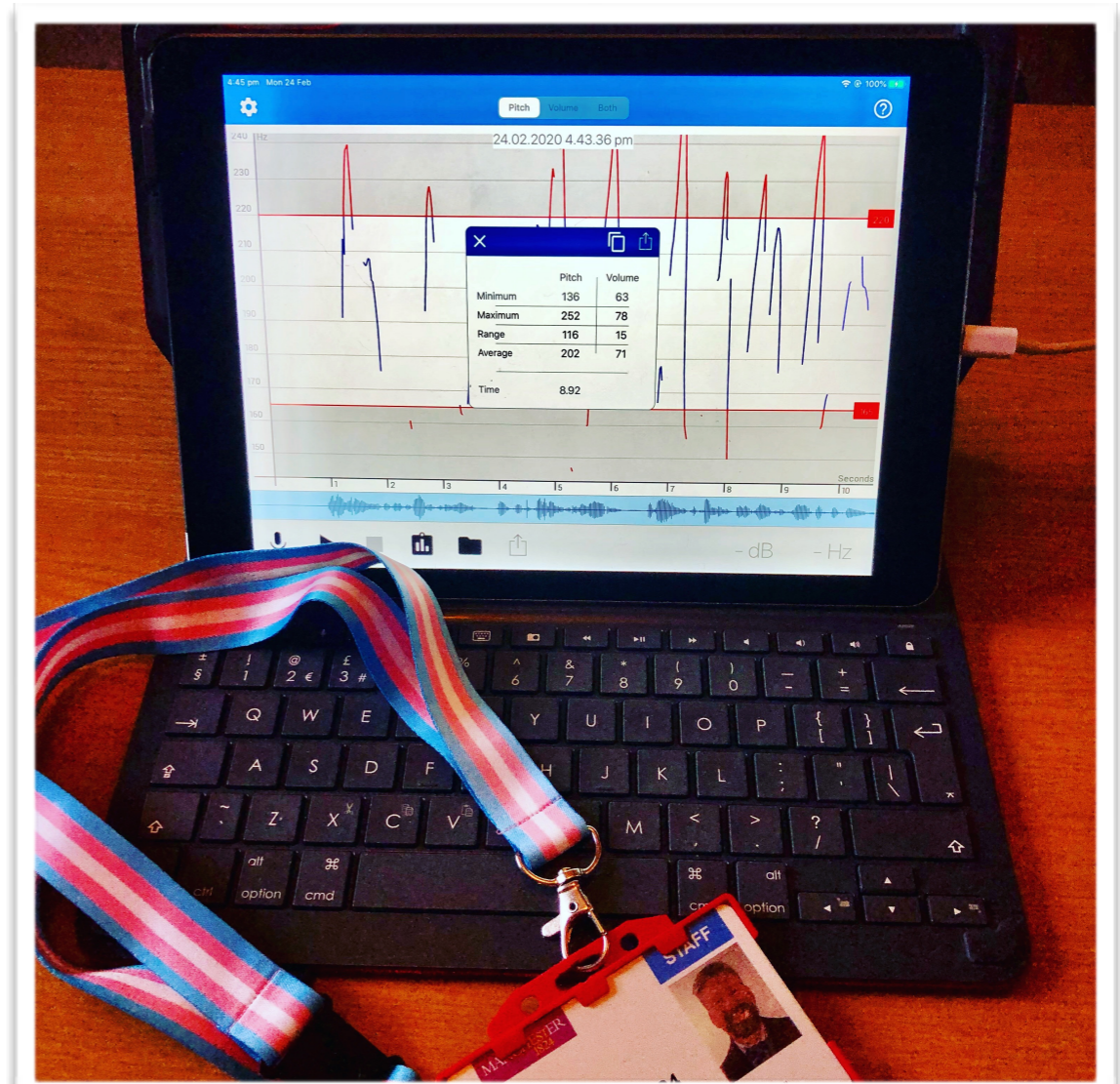
Client feedback



- 69 responses
- 100% enjoyed working with student volunteers
- 98% reported that group therapy was acceptable
- “The emotional support, social support and being surrounded by other trans people & trainee speech therapists.”
- “Learning safety in voice training. Meeting other people hoping to learn. Combating some of the anxiety about changing voice in groups.”

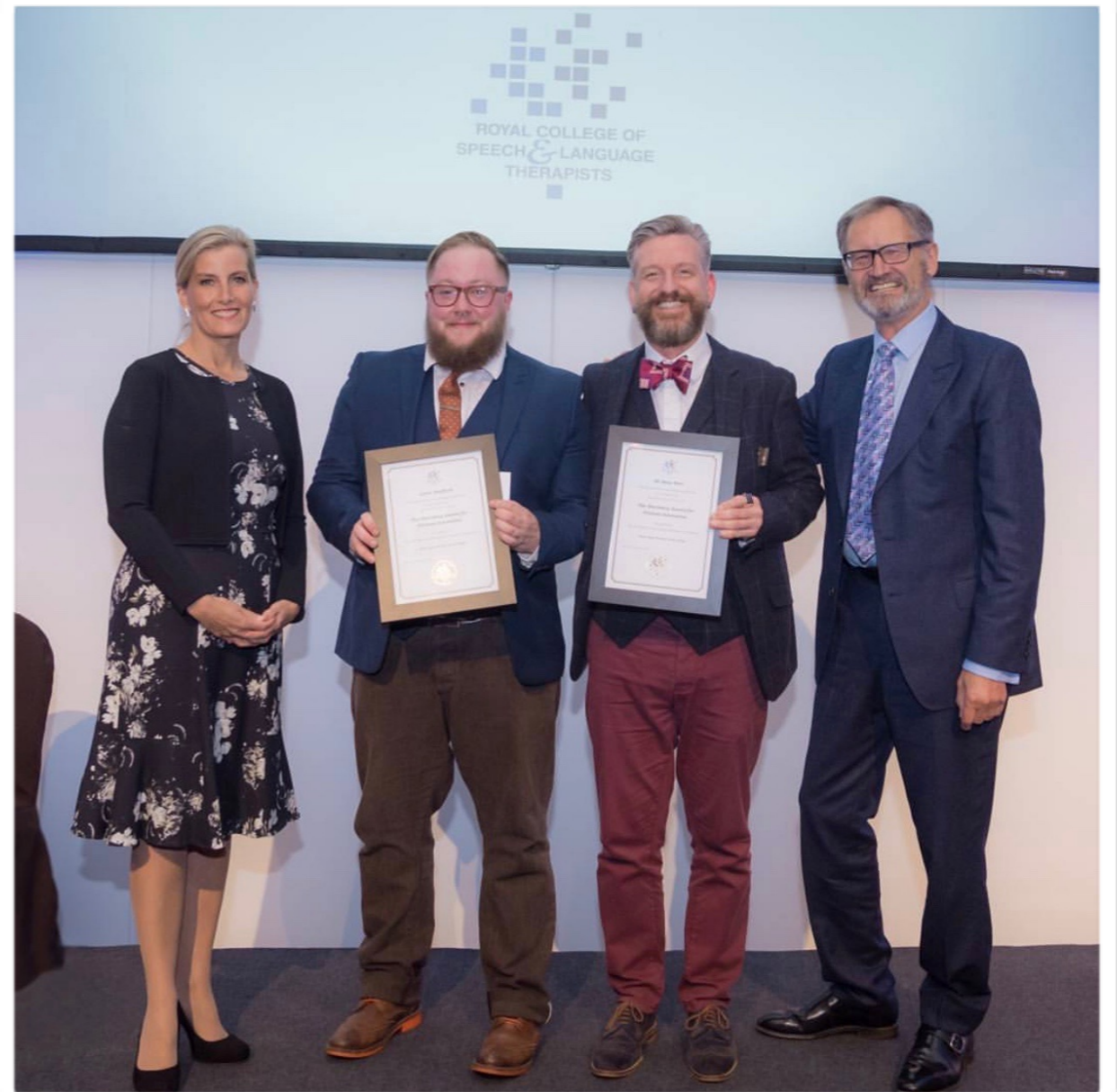
Student volunteer feedback

- 100% would recommend volunteering to their peers
- 99% said volunteering made them more likely to want to work with trans people in the future
- 97% reported a better understanding of the client group
- 97% learned voice therapy skills
- 87% learned voiced assessment techniques



Social responsibility

- Students are **highly motivated** to give to the local community
- **Mutual gain** - Student volunteers gained clinical skills and clients received a much needed service
- Academic lead seen in a **clinical environment** by students



Many thanks to:

- Our wonderful trans and non-binary clients
- All the amazing student volunteers
- Speech and language therapists who volunteered and assisted in delivering the course
- The LGBT Foundation, Manchester
- The Committee of the RCSLT National Clinical Excellence Network in Trans and Gender Diverse Voice and Communication