



Meeting Title	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Report Title	The impact of Speech and Language Needs on Outcomes for Children and Young People
Meeting Date	25 th March 2021

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Scope of this Report

The Local Government Association undertook a Peer Challenge with Nottingham City Council in 2019 and are due to revisit the Authority later this year. Following the Peer Challenge, the key recommendation was to develop a collaboratively produced, citywide Early Years Strategy with a particular focus on speech, language and communication (SLC). It was recommended that the strategy:

- Upskills the wider workforce in SLC and ensures the workforce understand how their work contributes to the strategy;
- Encourages measures to support with early identification of SLC needs;
- Offers a clear journey for parents and carers on the SLC offer in the City;
- Ensures SLC needs inform long term planning to improve children’s outcomes and reduce inequalities.

Shortly before the Peer Challenge, Nottingham City Council Children’s Services secured funding under the Department of Education’s Early Outcomes Fund (EOF) for work linked to SLC and the development of a SLC strategy for the City. This report provides an overview of the journey of the EOF work to date, when 18 months ago, there was no central SLC information hub in the City. The EOF has enabled us, in partnership with parents, practitioners and Better Communications CIC, to develop a digital SLC information hub, which will be launched on 16th March 2021. This is huge progress for the City.

Whilst evidence can be cited around the impact of how early SLC intervention and support can affect a child’s life chances in later years, we collectively recognise the developing strategy ideally needs to extend beyond the 0-5 years age range. This report does not cover the specifics of intervention for those at risk of exclusion and those on the edge of the Youth Justice System as this is outside the scope of the EOF Work, although it must be acknowledged the work that the Youth Justice Team are carrying out with young people strengthens the need for a citywide SLC strategy.

Context and Background / Reason for this Work

- Through Department for Education funding under the EOF, Nottingham City Council Children’s Services has been involved in ground-breaking work, in partnership with Leicester and Derby City Council’s and Better Communication CIC. This combined funding application, which is early

years focused, successfully secured £186k for the City in March 2019.

- Eligibility for funding was driven by all 3 cities in the partnership bid scoring below the national average in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) data. The table below reflects the EYFSP data over the last 5 years (*due to the impact of COVID19, there is no local or national dataset for 2020*).

	Good Level of Development				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nottingham City	58% (+11)	63.5 (+5.5)	66.2 (+2.7)	67.6% (+1.4)	66.9% (-0.7)
National	66%	69.3 (+3.3)	70.7 (+1.4)	71.5 (+0.8)	71.8 (+0.3)
Statistical Neighbours	61.7	64.9	66.6	68	68.7
Difference	-8	-5.8	-4.5	-3.9	-4.9

Average of Communication and Language Early Learning Goals (Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking)

	Ward	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SSBC Wards	Aspley	76.6%	72.9%	75.9%	74.9%	79.0%
	Bulwell	80.8%	80.2%	75.4%	82.4%	74.8%
	Hyson Green & Arboretum	69.2%	71.1%	71.4%	77.0%	77.7%
	St. Ann's	68.7%	76.0%	69.9%	76.6%	77.5%
Non-SSBC Wards						
	Basford	74.5%	83.5%	86.7%	86.4%	84.0%
	Berridge	71.0%	76.1%	75.8%	79.4%	73.8%
	Bestwood	77.6%	82.3%	84.2%	85.4%	83.3%
	Bilborough	77.6%	76.2%	78.9%	82.1%	84.2%
	Bulwell Forest	87.4%	87.4%	89.9%	89.1%	83.4%
	Castle	77.8%	84.4%	86.7%	90.6%	80.6%
	Clifton East	82.5%	83.5%	79.2%	83.0%	85.5%
	Clifton West	81.3%	86.2%	82.8%	89.0%	88.4%
	Dales	72.3%	74.8%	79.6%	76.4%	81.3%
	Leen Valley	72.6%	83.0%	79.0%	77.8%	83.7%
	Lenton & Wollaton East	74.2%	81.4%	68.8%	80.0%	81.6%
	Mapperley	68.8%	76.2%	78.4%	70.6%	81.7%
	Meadows	68.6%	76.0%	87.2%	84.1%	78.1%
	Outside Nottingham	83.5%	89.1%	86.4%	91.0%	85.0%
	Radford	68.6%	71.9%	78.5%	82.3%	77.9%
	Sherwood	81.8%	80.1%	84.1%	92.4%	81.0%
	Wollaton West	89.2%	89.6%	86.6%	84.8%	93.3%
Average		76.4%	79.5%	79.6%	81.8%	81.2%

- A local Needs Analysis has evidenced children and young people of Nottingham are not developing SLC to the best of their potential, which impacts on their attachment, attainment, leisure, mental health, well-being, later employment and life chances. The attached 'heat map' identifies predicted level of SLCN need for 0-4 years. We acknowledge the excellent targeted interventions taking place in the Small Steps Big Changes (SSBC) wards and SSBC colleagues

have been involved throughout this EOF work, however it remains evident that SLC needs remain a citywide issue and as such a citywide strategy is needed. This work presents the opportunity for real strategic change, to make that significant difference to children and families and address inequalities.

- The Early Years Peer Challenge acknowledged there were lots of really positive interventions, however “the golden thread” was missing and did not address long term positive impact. The Peer Reviewers are due to return in Summer 2021 and the identified need for a SLC Strategy has been developed as part of this EOF work. The draft SLC Strategy will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, who oversee and are accountable for this work, in May 2021.
- The attached *Identification and Intervention for Speech, Language and Communication in the Early Years: A Summary of the Early Outcomes Fund Project in Leicester, Derby and Nottingham cities* was published by Better Communication CIC in March 2020 and provides further context and an overview of work to date.

Vision for this SLC Work

- To develop a **city-wide, shared strategy**, based on outcomes across the whole system, which could inform future commissioning arrangements.
- For this strategy and change program to focus on **measurable impact**, not input, and to be jointly owned and delivered by all partners and for the leadership of delivering these integrated services to be based on the understanding of need rather than demand, with the tailoring of equity of outcome rather than equality of input.
- For there to be a **clear offer** which empowers families and professionals to navigate the best support to access the best offer to meet the needs of children and their families.
- To develop a **dashboard of impact measures** bringing together impact data across the whole system, informing ongoing joint commissioning of services and leading to improved outcomes for individuals, settings and cohorts. This is a long term plan.
- For SLC to be **embedded as a key issue** across all agendas, supported by a clear understanding of funding and commissioning arrangements, informed by subject experts who are ambitious for change for children and young people in Nottingham City and their life chances.

Next Steps

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| ➤ March 2021 | Launch of SLCN pathway to support the delivery of the Strategy |
| ➤ March – June 2021 | Development of the SLC Strategy, overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board |
| ➤ April 2021 – March 2022 | Establish joint commissioning strategic group with a view to jointly commissioned SLT and other SLC support services |