

An Executive Summary of the Speech, Language and Communication Strategy, 0-5 years, Nottingham City

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) occur in every community with an estimate that two children in every mainstream classroom may have a significant developmental language disorder. However, the evidence suggests that for children born into and growing up in disadvantage, as many as 50% of children entering school may have identifiable SLCN. For a significant proportion of these children, long lasting impact can be avoided through early intervention and prevention approaches.

We want Nottingham to be a City where all 0-5 year olds develop speech, language and communication (SLC) skills to the best of their individual potential.

Our vision is supported by the core principles of Nottingham being a City where:

- The right support is available at the right time
- Our youngest children are prepared for school
- Children attain well at school
- People look after themselves, make healthy choices and have good mental health and wellbeing
- People have good employment prospects and;
- Ultimately, people have improved life chances.

Our vision is based on an integrated offer, to be extended up to age 25 in the future, that delivers outcomes for children and young people through a strategic framework that includes:

- Support for families and young people
- Enhanced and adapted environments
- Developing the Workforce
- Early identification and;
- Effective intervention

Based on evidence data for Nottingham, we want to deliver outcomes based on interventions that we think will have the most significant impact to help us achieve our vision. By prioritising activities and interventions that contribute to the following impact measures, as part of the Action Plan to support the Strategy, we could see;

- Increased take up of the targeted funded 2 year old offer
- Fewer children identified with language delay at the 2 ½ Year Health Visitor Review. **Clarification of the Commissioned Health Checks required.**
- Fewer children identified with language delay at the 3 ½ Year Health Visitor Review
- Improvement in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment
- Access to a Speech and Language Therapist in a timely manner
- All children to receive an Integrated Check at 2 for children in settings

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring all professionals, across the 0-5 years workforce(across health, education and childcare) have identified baseline training and understand the assessment and screening process for all children
- Ensuring all relevant organisations working with children and families promote the free early years entitlement offers for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds to encourage participation
- Ensuring all 2 year olds receive an integrated (health and education) check using a universal screening tool, in partnership with parents, to support early identification of any speech, language and communications needs
- Sharing information between health and education departments about a child/family so that they don't miss out on any support needed
- Ensuring a joint commissioning approach, and an offer understood by all partners, to support the delivery of a whole systems model including universal, targeted and specialist services, delivered seamlessly from a child and family perspective.

The Local Government Association Peer Challenge, undertaken in 2019, and work through the government's social mobility agenda and Early Outcomes Fund have given Nottingham an opportunity for speech, language and communication to be embedded as a key issue across all workforces, supported by a clear understanding of children's milestones, and funding and commissioning arrangements, in order to improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people of Nottingham. This will be informed by experts who are ambitious for change, supported by parents as key educators and equal partners, with their needs are at the heart of service design and delivery.

The governance for this strategy was agreed to reside with the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2021 and the following national strategies are referenced throughout the full strategy:

- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (*Department for Education and Department for Health and Social Care, April 2020*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (*Department for Education, September 2021*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>
- Health Child Programme: Pregnancy and the First 5 Years of Life (*Department of Health and Social Care, October 2009*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-pregnancy-and-the-first-5-years-of-life>
- The Best Start for Life: a vision for the 1001 critical days (*Department of Health and Social Care, March 2021*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-best-start-for-life-a-vision-for-the-1001-critical-days>
- Bercow: 10 Years On (www.bercow10yearson.com March 2018)
[337644-ICAN-Bercow-Report-WEB.pdf](https://www.bercow10yearson.com/337644-ICAN-Bercow-Report-WEB.pdf) ([bercow10yearson.com](http://www.bercow10yearson.com))

- Best Start in Speech, Language and Communication (*Public Health England, December 2020*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-start-in-speech-language-and-communication>

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