THEORY OF CHANGE

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

Children in Halton are at high risk of developing Speech & Language difficulties. In 2018 25% of our children live in the top 5% most deprived areas in England.

Halton's Good Level of Development at the end of the Foundation Stage is lower than the national average.

A new programme 'Talk Halton' will address this. The ultimate goals are to increase GLD outcomes & identification of SLCN in Halton through supporting children's workforce.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

50% children in areas of social

with language delay. (Locke et

disadvantage start school

Good communication skills

are crucial to learning and

al) 2002

achievement.

Who is your key audience?

Children (0-5)

Early Years Practitioners

Health Partners

Parents

What steps are needed to bring about change?

Co-produce and launch Communication Strategy and Pathway in Halton

Complete needs analysis

Introduce common assessment and intervention tool, i.e. Wellcomm, to Early Years workforce.

Train practitioners to use the tool effectively

All EY practitioners. health partners and parents will engage with our new approach and will have sufficient understanding and motivation to support

it.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

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There common understanding and drive amongst all stakeholders to establish а borough-wide communication strategy.

Wellcomm is an evidencebased tool that will effect the desired outcomes.

Practitioners will have the capacity to implement the programme.

What is the measurable effect of your work?

There will be baseline and ongoing accurate information about all children's SLCN needs to appropriately commission and plan future services.

Measurable effect?

50% of 2yr olds, 75% of 3

and 4 yr olds, 100% of

children by end of EYFS

will receive a Wellcomm

assessment and have

their SLCN needs

identified

There will be a consistency of approach to communication which will mitigate risk caused by workforce mobility.

Measurable effect?

Increase in % GLD Decrease in inappropriate referrals children. to SLT service

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

A strategy group will lead to improved communication processes, data sharing and consequently better outcomes for children.

Improved identification of SLCN needs will increase end of EYFS CLL outcomes

What are the wider benefits of your work?

Parents will be aware of the importance of SLC in children's development and the impact of this

Wider benefits?

Wider benefits?

Improved emotional wellbeing and behaviour in

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Evidence indicates that "81% children with emotional behavioural difficulties have language needs." J. Gross (2017). This links to an increasing number of exclusions due to emotional behavioural difficulties in Halton.

What is the long-term change you see as your goal?

Sustained improvement in EYFS outcomes.

Existence of a long-term underpinning Pathway and Strategy for supporting communication across education and health in the local authority area.

Robust data sharing systems will be in place.

Increased focus on communication at both a strategic and operational level so that there is a whole system approach.

Early identification and support of children with SLC needs will have longer term impact on attainment and achievement.

There will be an improvement in expertise, knowledge and skill in SLC throughout the Early Years workforce leading to increased capacity in the SALT service.

STAKEHOLDERS

SALT Service. Education (EY and School Improvement), Public Health, Parents, Children's Centres, Health Visiting Team, Adult Learning, SEN Specialist Service, Commissioner

"Too many children with SLCN

are being missed (not identified) or not being followed up." J. Gross (2017) Nasen Conference