

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM****12th February 2014****Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults****‘Every Child a Talker’ & Talkboost – Early Years Interventions**1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Schools Forum of the work undertaken by the Authority with early years children and invite comments from Schools Forum on this work

2. Information and Analysis2.1. Background

Every Child a Talker (ECaT) is the name of a successful training and intervention programme that has been introduced over the past three years within Derbyshire schools, PVI early years settings and children’s centres. The programme’s aims are to train staff within schools, PVI settings and children’s centres to identify and reduce language delay present in 2-5 year olds. Talkboost is delivered only to schools and targets children aged 4 – 7 years.

2.2. Impact of Interventions

The introduction of the ECaT programme has resulted in significant improvements in children’s development as the following table shows:

Area of need*	Number of children assessed with this need	Number of children for whom development is now no longer considered delayed following intervention	% of children assisted
Delayed listening and attention skills	709	429	60%
Delayed understanding	743	417	56%
Delayed expression	868	447	51%
Delayed social communication	867	502	58%

*In total, 1,556 children have been supported, most presenting with 2 or more needs.

Talkboost has been introduced and quality assured in all Derbyshire ECaT Hub Schools. The impact evidence from the pilot is that an average accelerated gain in language development of 18 months is made following a 10 week intervention programme. Talkboost is an Ofsted recognised intervention and is identified within the DfE publication 'What Works' as a programme that schools could purchase with their pupil premium funding. The ECaT programme to date has consisted of:

- An accredited ECaT assessor/trainer, responsible for training staff from schools, settings and children centres to become Early Language Lead Practitioners (ELLPs)
- Development of 8 Hub ECaT schools which are centres of excellence providing support to schools and settings that contact them for advice and guidance
- The development of an ECaT trained Early Language Lead Professional in all children's centres who receive dedicated ECaT supervision from a speech and language therapist.
- Provision of evidence based speech, language and communication training courses to staff across health, children centres, education and the PVI day care sector.

2.3. Future Proposals

It is estimated that £150k per annum is required to maintain the year on year availability of knowledgeable, trained staff across Derbyshire and across the different types of provision for early years that are able to successfully intervene to support language development and remedy delay. An analysis of the planned spend is shown as Appendix 1.

Given the contribution that this intervention makes to ensuring young children arrive at Key Stage 1 ready to learn, thereby avoiding future costs of support from Teaching Assistants, Schools Forum is asked to give its support to funding this intervention from the Early Years Block central allocation.

The funding required to continue with this initiative can be met from within the allocation for retained Early Years functions already agreed by Schools Forum on 17th October 2013.

3. Strategic Director's Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the impact of the ECaT and Talkboost programmes to date
- b) Comment on the proposals for the continuation of these interventions.

Item	Anticipated cost per annum £k
Accredited ECaT Consultant	68
Speech & Language training delivery, course materials, specialist intervention.	27
Speech & Language therapy services commissioned by Early Years Quality Team (Let's Talk)	10
Supply costs – used to reimburse schools and settings for backfill costs incurred when staff attend training courses.	45
Total	150

Of the 1,556 cohort supported, if it is assumed that around 58% no longer have any identifiable delay, this equates to around 900 children. Therefore the cost per child benefitting from the intervention is approximately £167. It is anticipated that the number of children in receipt of language support of this type will increase as the programme extends its reach into more settings, reducing the unit cost still further.