

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**6th October 2015****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 through the Every Child a Talker sustainability programme to help more children to enter school with age appropriate communication and language development.

1.1. Background

Every Child a Talker (ECaT) is the name of a successful training and intervention programme that has been introduced over the past four 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. ECaT is a multi-agency programme, delivered by the ECaT Consultant in partnership with Speech and Language Therapists in north and south Derbyshire.

The initial roll-out of ECaT ran from January 2012-December 2014. The Sustainability Programme began in January 2015, with the aim of maintaining a trained lead practitioner in every Derbyshire children's centre and also in schools and PVI early years settings in the most deprived areas of Derbyshire. In addition, to meet the needs of those pupils in Year 1 and 2 who need ongoing support to develop communication skills, Talk Boost, an evidence-based intervention programme, is delivered only to ECaT schools.

1.2. Impact of Interventions

The introduction of the ECaT programme has resulted in significant improvements in children's development. To date, 200 schools and settings have participated in the year-long programme, submitting data on the language development of 4058 children. The impact of interventions on children at risk of language delay is summarised in the following table:

Area of need (most children are delayed in 2 or more areas)	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	1,554	926	60%
Delayed understanding	1,705	992	58%
Delayed expression	2,027	1,046	52%
Delayed social communication	2,013	1,121	56%

In terms of Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes, in 2014 when data was last analysed, Communication and Language outcomes were 1% above national in Derbyshire overall with between 5 and 7% more children exceeding in the three aspects than do nationally. The gap between FSM children and their peers has closed by 5% in speaking.

Talk Boost 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 funding for Talk Boost in 2015 enabled 30 schools to be trained.

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). Each ELLP gains an AptEd Level 2 or 3 Award in Speech and Language Support for Under 5s.
- The 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.

1.3. Future Proposals

It is estimated that £157k 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.

Evidence confirms that the programme is very important to School Readiness in Derbyshire:

- The recent Ready for School in Derbyshire survey demonstrated that the ability to express needs and feelings and to listen are some of the 10 keys to school readiness – see Appendix 2
- Over 40 ECaT schools have expressed an interest in receiving Talk Boost training in the future
- The creation of the post of Foundation Years Practitioner (FYP) in Derbyshire children's centres has created further demand for ECaT training to ensure each FYP has the skills and knowledge to support families of children at risk of language delay. The changes of staffing in many children's centres also means that we need to train more ELLPS in Children's Centres than would have been predicted through natural wastage.
- Schools and settings continue to take up the offer to train a new ELLP on the ECaT sustainability programme when the current post-holder leaves, recognising the value of the role.

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.

2. Strategic Director's Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- (i) Note the impact of the ECaT and Talkboost programmes to date;
- (ii) Comment on the proposals for the continuation of these interventions; and
- (iii) Agree to provide continued financial support to the ECaT project in 2016-17 at current levels (£157k).

IAN JOHNSON

Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Summary of Potential ECAT Costs 2016-17

3 ECAT Courses

	No of attendees	No of days	Cost of supply/per item	Full cost of supply	Funding provided by DCC	Notes
Teachers	15	7.5	£200	£22,500	£15,000	£1,000 per school
Practitioners	15	7.5	£100	£11,250	£7,500	£500 per site
Children Centre Workers	15		£0	£0	£0	
Course Books	45		£22		£990	
Accreditation	45		£55		£2,475	
Annual Licence fee	4		£80		£320	
Sub total					£26,285	

3 Talk Boost Courses

	No of attendees	No of days	Cost of supply/per item	Full cost of supply	Funding provided by DCC	Notes
Teachers	30	1	£200		£6,000	£200 per school
TA's	30	1	£100		£3,000	£100 per site
Course Pack	30		£300		£9,000	
Annual Licence	3		£60		£180	
Sub total					£18,180	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Consultant

		Total	Notes
1 FTE Soulbury Scale 17		£52,373	
Plus sal on-costs est		£15,302	
Travel Costs	200 miles per mth @ £0.45 x 10 mths	£900	
Sub total		£68,575	

DCC Admin Support

		Total
1 FTE single Status G4	Pro rata cost 8 days x 7.5 x £14 ph	£840

NHS Contracts

		Total
DCHS	25 sessions for year (with backfill)	£5,114
Chesterfield Royal	180 sessions for year	£32,122
Room Hire & drinks	Talk Boost – 3 days x £350	£1,050
	13 ECaT sessions x £120 x 3 Cohorts	£4,680
GRAND TOTAL		£156,846

READY FOR SCHOOL

IN DERBYSHIRE

The 10 keys to unlocking school readiness*

- I can settle happily without my parent/carer
- I can tell friends and grown-ups what I need
- I can take turns and share when I am playing
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands
- I can put on my own coat and shoes and feed myself
- I can tell a grown up if I am happy, sad or cross
- I know that what I do and say can make others happy or unhappy
- I am curious and want to learn and play
- I can stop what I am doing, listen and follow simple instructions
- I enjoy sharing books with grown ups

***If a child is developing typically for their age**