

## **Early Language and Communication Project**

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	Early Language and Communication Project	<ul> <li>☑ Families</li> <li>☑ Environment</li> <li>☑ Workforce</li> <li>☑ Identification</li> <li>☑ Targeted</li> </ul>	
	Signposting parents to SLT advice and support	☐ Intervention	
An Early	y Language and Communication Improvement St	ory Board	

## Signposting parents to SLT advice and support

## from South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

The issue	The team	Our idea
Request for Assistance (RfA) being received by SLT department from professionals such as education staff and Health Visitors (HVs) rather than parents/carers  Important information from the person closest to the child was being missed	Parents/Carers Health Visitors Speech and Language Therapists	HVs discussing concerns re Speech, Language and Communication with families would offer a card with helpline and drop-in details and ask families to make contact with SLT department to discuss their concerns directly. This would allow for concerns to be discussed, reassurance to be offered and advice and strategies to be given. An RfA could also be taken during the helpline / drop-in call, if appropriate
Tools & resources we used.	What we did	The impact
'Business cards' created and given to HV staff to share with families  Advertisement of helpline and virtual drop-in services widely shared through use of posters in community and social media	SLT attended 3 x Health Visitor locality meetings to discuss this test of change with HV staff  Increase in number of virtual drop-in slots available  Rota for helpline and drop-in established	There was an immediate shift in the percentage of RfAs coming directly from parents/carers  12.5 % November 2020  73% January 2021  85% February 2021  The number of RfAs received remained constant with typical pattern across the year observed  Quality information was obtained from parent/carer via call  Relationship established with family from their very first contact



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Our learning & next steps	Positive feedback for HVs 'The HVs have really loved this approach and families are feeling more in control to call for that support and advice – great team work'
	Virtual drop-in sessions were launched at a time when families were confident with use of video calls so timing was good
	Removed the requirement for 'triage'
	Helpline and virtual drop-in slots continue to be offered weekly
	Face to face drop-in sessions have been introduced within education establishments
	Next stepscurrent focus is on reducing waiting timeswhen waiting times have improved, we hope to offer Hanen interventions straight from helpline / virtual drop-in as a step before RfA, where appropriate
Find out more	Fiona Brown, Clinical Team Leader, SLT, 01292 571236