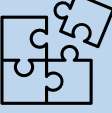









### An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from West Lothian

 <b>The issue</b>	 <b>The team</b>	 <b>Our idea</b>
<p>Within West Lothian, there has been an increase in developmental delays in children which includes delays in SLC.</p> <p>Some areas of West Lothian are higher in delays than others however there is no clear reason/link as to why.</p>	<p>Health Visitors</p> <p>Health Visitors (HV) are carrying out the Universal Pathway to all families within West Lothian which includes 11 home visits from birth until the child is 5. During each contact the HV carries out informal developmental assessments however formally assesses development using Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) at key contacts: 8 months, 13-15 months, 27-30 months and 4-5 years. Data is collected every quarter for which includes data for developmental concerns in 13-15 months, 27-30 months and 4-5 years children.</p>	<p>Our aim statement: <b>Improve Speech &amp; Language outcomes by 10% for all children in West Lothian born after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022 by their 27–30-month review (Dec 2024).</b></p> <p>All new babies on the participating HV caseload with the consent of the new parent will introduce the ASQ and the ASQ Activity Sheets with parents from birth onwards to highlight to parents activities they can carry out with their child to improve developmental outcomes.</p> <p>We decided to carry out a test of change in one area of West Lothian initially. By providing parents with the advice and tools, we aim to improve SLC development outcomes.</p> <p>Our vision aligns with the workforce, identification and support primary drivers from the SLC national theory of change.</p>
 <b>Tools &amp; resources we used.</b>	 <b>What we did</b>	 <b>The impact</b>
<p>ASQ questionnaires</p> <p>Mary Sheridan – From Birth to Five Years</p> <p>Linking in with SLT colleagues when needs identified</p>	<p>After gaining consent from family to enter SLC QI trial, the Health Visitor would provide the family with ASQ activity sheets at key times such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-4 month activity sheet at 1<sup>st</sup> follow-up Universal Pathway (UP) contact visit (baby would be 3-4 weeks old)</li> <li>• 4-8 month activity sheet given at 4 month UP contact</li> <li>• 8-12 month + 12-16 month activity sheet given at 8 month UP contact</li> <li>• 16-20 month + 20-24 month activity sheet given at 13-15 month UP contact</li> </ul>	<p>We are currently 18 months into the small test of change and will not have data for the children who have been part of the project until their 27-30 month review (approx. Dec 2024/Jan 2025).</p> <p>Feedback from the staff involved have reported it is easy to use and parental feedback has been positive. One parent has expressed the activity sheet has been useful for her as a first time mum.</p>

	<p>The Health Visitor would discuss activity sheet with parents and encourage use during each UP contact. The child would be assessed using ASQ questionnaire and professional assessment, at 4 months, 8 months, 13-15 months, 27-30 months and 4-5 years children. If additional needs were identified, they would be provided more support/referred as appropriate to SLT colleagues.</p>	
 <p><b>Our learning &amp; next steps</b></p>	<p>By using the ASQ's from birth we hope to identify any developmental issues earlier to enable us to put in relevant interventions to ensure the child is meeting their milestones. We also hope to identify if there is a specific age where development might start to become delayed in children so that we can target external services at this specific time.</p> <p>We will start to obtain data in December 2024-April 2025 for the children who started the project in August 2022 when the children will have received their 27 month developmental review. Once we have the data, we will review this and obtain feedback from parents and staff involved. Using the PDSA cycle, we will review where we can improve practice and start to roll this out to other HV teams within West Lothian.</p>	
 <p><b>Find out more</b></p>	<p>Amanda Kiely, Health Visiting Team Manager, NHS Lothian (West Lothian)            Email: <a href="mailto:Amanda.Kiely@nhs.scot">Amanda.Kiely@nhs.scot</a>            Tel. No: 01506 423882            Mobile: 07790825798</p>	