

## An Early Language and Communication Improvement Story Board from Fife

### Supporting ELC Practitioners to test SLC QI Ideas

 <b>The issue</b>	 <b>The team</b>	 <b>Our idea</b>
<p>Approximately 25% of Children and Young People (0-18 years-old) living in Scotland can be predicted to have some level of Speech, Language and Communication Need (SLCN) at some stage in their development.</p> <p>This does not necessarily mean they require specialist support, providing they are receiving 'strong universal and targeted support that has been developed in conjunction with specialists' (Scottish Gov, 2021).</p> <p>The need for early intervention and prevention work is greatest in our Early Learning and Childcare settings (ELCs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Hutchinson, Fife Council Education</li> <li>• Emma Jessiman, Fife Council Psychological Service</li> <li>• Gemma Wilson, Speech &amp; Language Therapy Service</li> <li>• Viv Clarke, Speech &amp; Language Therapy Service</li> <li>• Tracy Aird, Occupational Therapy Service</li> </ul> <p><b>Supported by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joleen McCool, Improvement Coordinator, Fife Council</li> <li>• Clark Graham, EY Manager, Fife Council</li> </ul>	<p>Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Practitioners will be supported to personalise bespoke change ideas (based on the Communication High 5 principles) and test using a rigorous method to capture learning and impact to support children who are not making the expected progress for their age and stage and require additional targeted (non-clinical) support.</p>
 <b>Tools &amp; resources we used</b>	 <b>What we did</b>	 <b>The impact</b>
<p>We will be using the Fife eLIPS (Early Language in Play Settings) data to support our baseline measurements.</p> <p>We will be using key communication messages which have been packaged as the 'Communication High 5' and have already been shared with all ELCs in Fife via training, information sharing etc.</p> <p>All members of the team are trained in QI methodology via the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme (ScIL) and Scottish Coaching and Leading for Improvement programme (SCLIP).</p>	<p>We applied for funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to enable us to provide dedicated capacity to support this initiative. We recognise that there have been many successful small scale improvement projects, but dedicated time and input is required to take these to spread and scale.</p> <p>The project team is currently meeting with the Head Teachers of 4 Early Learning Centres in Fife to establish a project plan, to 'build the will', create the conditions for change and identify a project timeline for the settings.</p>	<p>Each Participating ELC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use data and QI tools to thoroughly understand the root causes</li> <li>• Have explicit measurable aims.</li> <li>• Develop a collective theory of change.</li> <li>• Measure data over time, capturing learning and impact on run charts.</li> <li>• Devise an implementation/ spread plan to sustain improvement gains.</li> <li>• Distil learning on successful change, so that the QI faculty can develop spread plans to take learning to scale.</li> </ul>
 <b>Our learning &amp; next steps</b>	<p>We plan to build on learning from smaller scale QI projects which have taken place in individual nurseries. We plan to scale up through this development work.</p> <p><a href="https://glowscotland.org.uk">Early Language &amp; Communication – Fife Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative (glowscotland.org.uk)</a></p>	
 <b>Find out more</b>	<p><a href="mailto:Gemma.Wilson@nhs.scot">Gemma.Wilson@nhs.scot</a> (contact for NHS Fife)</p> <p><a href="mailto:Joleen.McCool@fife.gov.uk">Joleen.McCool@fife.gov.uk</a> (contact for Fife Council)</p>	