

# **Speech, Language and Communication - Giving children the best possible start in life. A tool for health visitors.**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Jean Cowie, Principal Educator, NES  
Joanne Gibson, Project Lead, NES

# Raise your hand if...

- You feel confident assessing speech, language and communication development in children
- You feel confident supporting children / families with speech, language and communication needs

# Raise your hand if....

- Speech, language and communication development was part of your initial health visitor education / training
- You have had CPD / training on speech, language and communication development and needs since qualifying as a health visitor

# Communication Trust Survey (2017)

- 21% of health visitors felt confident in their ability to support childrens speech language and communication(SLC) development.
- 44% received little or no training around SLC development in their initial training
- 59% received little or no training / CPD around SLC development working as a health visitor

# SLC development and children

- Evidence shows that speech, language and communication are fundamental life skills and have a profound impact on life chances.
- The development of speech, language and communication skills affects academic achievement, behaviour, mental health and employability in later life.
- Speech, language and communication needs are extremely common, yet often invisible:

(Communication Trust, 2017)

# Impact of SLCN

For example:

- 60% of young offenders have a speech, language and communication need (SLCN)  
(Bryan et al, 2007)
- 88% of long-term unemployed people have a SLCN.  
(Elliot, 2009)

# Named Person Order 2016

Named Person required to have undertaken undergraduate, post-graduate or professional training in:

- child development
- assessing and profiling the speech, language and communication abilities and needs of children, young people and parents

# SLC: Giving Children the best possible start in life

- On-line resource – accessible on computer, lap-top, tablet, mobile phone.
- Based on universal health visiting pathway and GRIFEC principles
- Interactive – can dip in and out of sections as needed
- Information available in PDF format



# SLC: Giving Children the best possible start in life



- ..\..\Users\jeanc\Desktop\NESD0707  
S&L site

# References/ Resources

- Bryan K, Freer J, Furlong C. 2007. Language and communication difficulties in juvenile offenders. International Journal of Language and Communication Difficulties. 42. p505
- CYP (Scotland) Act. 2014  
Accessible online from:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>
- Communication Trust. 2017. Professional Development in Speech, Language and Communication: Findings from a National Survey.  
Accessible on-line from:  
<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/workforcesurvey>
- Elliot N. 2009. An Investigation into Communication Skills in Long-Term Unemployed Young Men. University of Glamorgan.

# References / Resources

- Hartshorne M. 2006. The cost to the Nation of Children's Poor Communication. London: I-CAN.  
Accessible on line from:  
<http://www.ican.org.uk/~media/Ican2/Whats%0the%20Issue/Evidence/2%20The%20Cost%20to%20the%20Nation%20of%20Children%20s%20Poor%20Communication%20pdf.ashx>
- Named Person (Training, Qualifications, Experience and Position) (Scotland) Order [2016]  
Accessible on-line from:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2016/16/article/2/made>
- Health Visiting / School Nursing Community Of Practice  
<http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/child-services/communities-of-practice/health-visiting-and-school-nursing.aspx>