

SLT –Attainment Fund Proposal

SLTs have been identified as key collaborative partners in identifying and tackling barriers to learning and closing the poverty related attainment gap.

NHS Lothian already offer an integrated SLT service to Education and further funding would offer the opportunity to enhance the existing service enriching and more effectively targeting the pupils at risk by:

- Identifying and agreeing the areas of Speech, Language & Communication need and gaps in current First Step provision
- Training and supporting class teams and parents to implement evidence based targeted interventions.
- Using specialist assessment tools (e.g. *Classroom Observation Tool*) to establish baseline skills and chart progress over time complementing existing attainment measures used within NHS Lothian & East Lothian Council.

How might this additional SLT resource be used?

- 1 Preliminary consultation with First Step to include standardised checklists / classroom observations to guide decision making and identify gaps.
- 2 Discussion and agreement on suitable packages required at Universal, Targeted and Specialist levels of intervention.

Examples of existing packages:

Package	Work involved	Targeting
Visual Supports Project	Training school staff and ongoing support to symbolise classrooms /processes.	Support learners through all modalities to understand and follow school routines
Great Box of Toys	A resource for both staff and parents. (Box of specific and easily obtained toys with accompanying postcards)	To support the development of Early communication and play both at home and in the nursery setting.
Talking Time (Early Talking time, Talking time 1 & 2)	Small group language development work with class teams	Comprehension and early sentence development.
Word Boost	Training and supporting class teams in robust vocabulary instruction.	Vocabulary acquisition for learning and life as a foundation for Literacy & Numeracy.
Oral Narrative skills – Interactive Storytelling and Literacy Circle	Training and supporting class teams to create and manage oral narrative skills for pupils at all levels.	Speaking and listening skills as a foundation for reading and writing stories.

Talk and Move Groups	Training and supporting staff to deliver therapy activities in small groups	Movement and interaction skills for learning in small groups
Emotion Talks Groups	Working with pupils or parents in small group tasks using Emotion Talks materials & activities	Vocabulary for identifying and managing emotions and behaviour.
Signalong	Training is available for both staff and parents in Signalong – a key word signing system to support the development of communication skills	Beneficial for all children but particularly those with delayed and/or disordered language development, poor speech, English as a second language, learning difficulties.
Hanen Parent Programmes <i>'It takes two to talk'</i> <i>'More than words' (autism specific)</i>	8 week parent programme aimed at supporting parents to develop positive interaction skills with their child including the use of video feedback	Beneficial for all children but particularly those with delayed and/or disordered language development, and those with associated learning difficulties

All our staff are registered with and regulated by the Health Care Professions Council. This ensures that they comply with the standards required to practise as an SLT including qualifications and continued professional development.

All NHS Lothian Speech and Language Therapy Staff complete extensive mandatory training on a regular basis (a list of training is available on request), are PVG checked (both for adults and children) are regularly appraised and have access to supervision, mentoring and support from senior and specialist clinical staff.

Therapists employed by the NHS have direct and easy access to the rest of the Children's Services Team allowing for good liaison and planning for those children with specific speech, language and communication needs.