

Workforce Consultation Feedback on a Speech, Language and Communication Strategy, 0-5 years, Nottingham City

In Nottingham City, we want all 0-5 year olds to develop speech, language and communication skills to the best of their ability. We can achieve this by ensuring;

- The right support is available at the right time
- Our youngest children are prepared for, and enjoy, school
- People look after themselves, make healthy choices and have good mental health and wellbeing
- People have good employment prospects and;
- People having improved life chances.

Our vision, which we have an aspiration to extend to 25 years of age, is to ensure that no child or family misses out on the support they might need, to ensure all children reach their full potential in speech, language and communication and to ensure that anyone working with children aged 0-5 years, must also work together with parents and carers.

A draft Speech, Language and Communication Strategy, 0-5 years, for Nottingham City was written in consultation with partners and agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board. This draft strategy was consulted on with the early years workforce, and also parents and carers, in Autumn 2021.

Key Headlines from the Early Years Workforce Consultation:

- 99% agree it is important for all professionals to undertake training relevant to their role and to understand the assessment and screening processes for children under 5
- 97% agree all relevant organisations working with children and families should promote the free early years entitlement offer for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds to encourage participation
- 100% agree that relevant information should be shared across services to ensure that no child or family misses out on the support they need
- Less than half (37%) feel the child's Red Book is important to their role
- 68% are using the Balanced System Speech, Language and Communication Pathway, in some format, in their role
- There is excellent partnership working with wide range of agencies, organisations and services to support children's speech, language and communication needs
- There is a need for early and universal identification of need and evidence based interventions with a quick referral process
- There is a need for collaborative, cross-sector working to ensure all professionals know who to contact, how and when to ensure families they are working with receive the right support at the right time.

Next Steps

We will combine the findings from the Early Years Workforce Consultation, with the findings from the Parents and Carers Consultation to revise and finalise the strategy before it goes back to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The finalised strategy will be published and shared, alongside a supporting, jointly-owned, implementation plan, which will outline how the key headlines will be addressed to ensure the vision for under 5's in the City is achieved.

