

Finding Eddie's Voice

Steve Hermon

#APPGSLD 17TH NOVEMBER 2021



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SLT Timeline

- We first contacted NHS Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) in April 2017
- Initial appointment in October 2017
- Telephone review in January 2018
- I attended a Parent Information Session in February 2018



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SLT Timeline

- Eddie attended a therapy 'demonstration session' in May 2018
- 30 minute block of therapy in clinic in September 2018
- Seen in nursery in February 2019
- Received a weekly visit in nursery from SLT team from May-June 2019



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SLT Timeline

- Eddie began attending a special school in Dudley borough in September 2019
- Daily 'input' from teaching assistants but no therapy
- Met NHS Therapist in school once in October 2019.
- Therapist provided assessment report in January 2020 for Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP)
- No contact during coronavirus lockdown until a letter from NHS SLT service in July 2020.



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Lost Years

“Communication provides a foundation for children’s development.

Early language development is an important factor in the development of children’s literacy and as such a key part of their educational success.”

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



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Lost Years

“Those who fail to receive help are at greater risk of falling behind in education, or developing behavioural problems. There are far too many children who have ended up in youth custody, who had speech and language problems at school.”

Anne Longfield, former Children’s Commissioner for England



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Post Lockdown

- New SLT appointed and communication increased with more regular phone calls.
- I instigated the creation of a parent forum to increase communication with SLT service.
- In November 2020, we turned to a private speech and language therapist to increase support.
- Eddie was diagnosed with Autism in October 2021

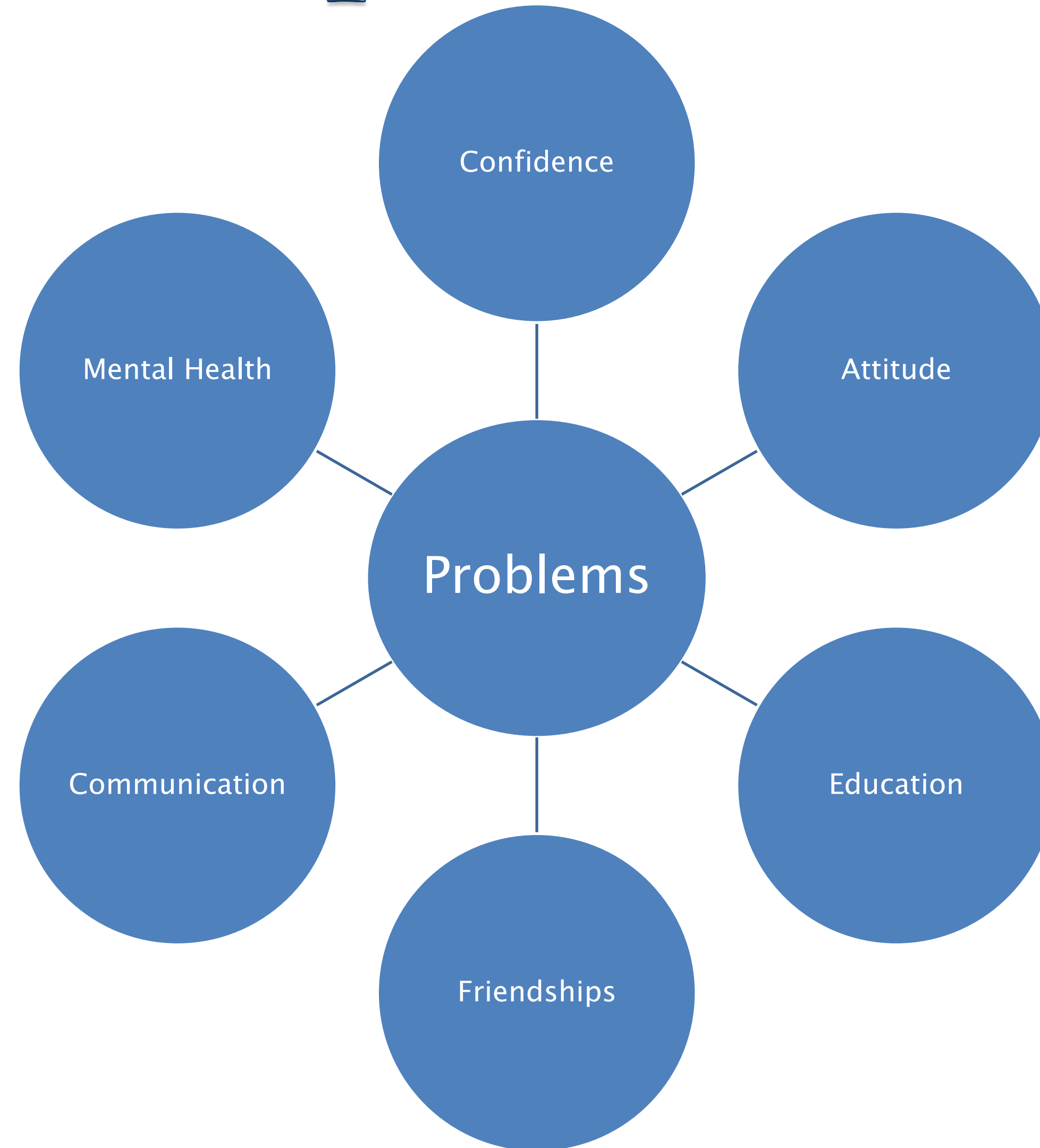
Our Speech Journey.

Dave Harford


How it Began

- Jan 2016 – 2 Year check with health visitor. Advised of concerns.
 - Feb 2016 – attended drop in session at children's centre.
 - May 2016 – First contact with SLT Worcester therapists, assessment done.
 - September – November 2016 – invited to a small group sessions with 5 other children. Targets given to work with at home.
 - January 2017 – Home visits from an SLT for 6 months.
 - Easter 2017 – assessed and confirmed a place at WEYLC.
 - Sept 2017 – July 18 Intense SLT twice a week.
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The Speech Battle



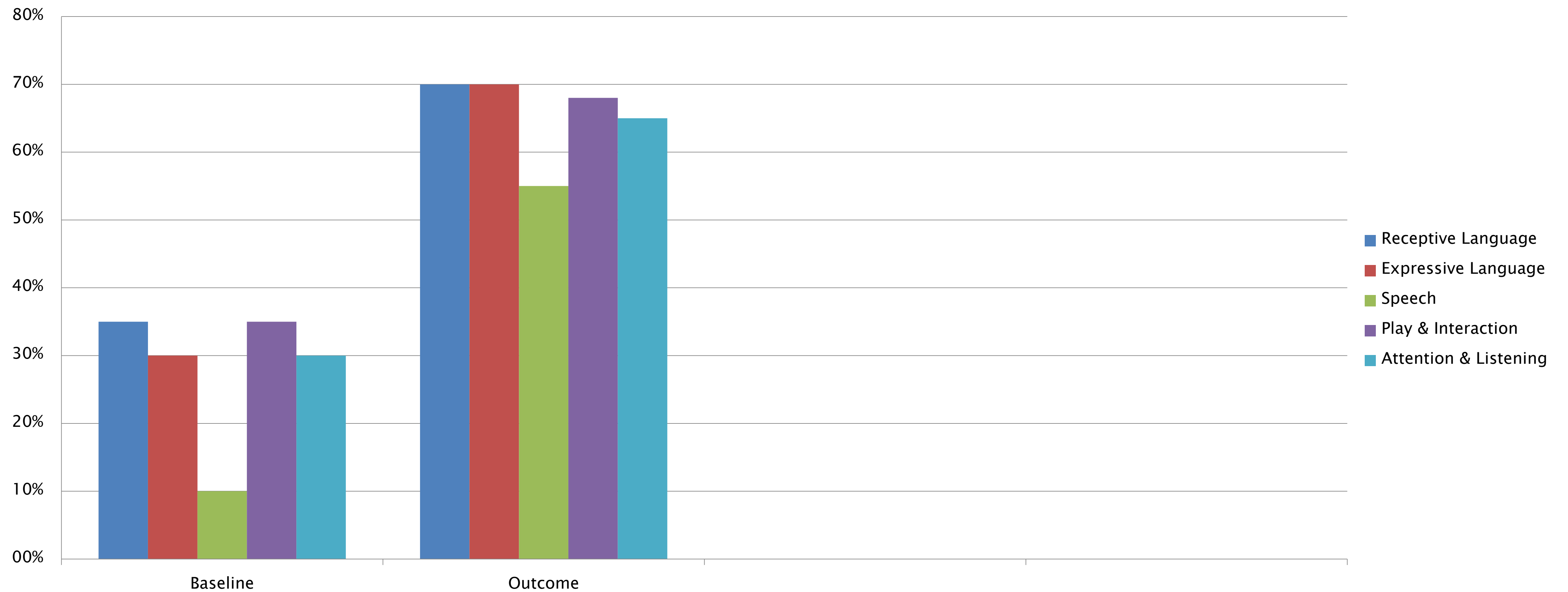
What we Did

- Worked with pre-school.
 - Worked with SLT Worcester.
 - Worked at home, played language games, read, use resources given from WEYLC - my wife was instrumental in George's progress.
 - Remained positive, if we didn't understand, we'd make it our fault by saying "our ears weren't working".
 - Talked to George slowly whilst asking him to watch our lips.
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Ican & RCSLT Survey

- Almost Six out of 10 (59%) parents of children and young people with speech, language and communication needs have to fight to get support for their children's difficulties and more than half have to wait longer than six months to get it, according to an online survey of over 1,000 parents in the UK.
 - Almost half (48%) of parents who said there was a lack of support available for their child, stated this had a negative effect on their child's education
 - 42% of this group said it had a detrimental effect on their child's mental health.
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Speech Therapy Works



TEAMWORK!!

Essential for a positive outcome.





Thank you - Any questions?