

# To increase QI and audit activity in Paediatric Speech & Language Therapy

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Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (2026)

## Introduction

It was noted that the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy service had reduced the amount of Quality Improvement (QI) and audit documented activity which resulted in few projects being completed and shared at the QI Therapies meeting during the financial year 2024 to 2025. The QI and Audit leads were keen to increase this activity, and the outcomes are outlined within this poster.

## Method

Quantitative and Qualitative baseline data was captured in March 2025: The number of projects started (11), completed (6), abandoned (4) and rolled over (1). Staff completed questionnaires to explore the barriers and enablers to carrying out QI and audit activity

The main barriers for staff were:



The qualitative data informed the QI and Audit Leads to implement the following changes within the service:

- Staff were **reminded** that QI/audit work was included in their job plans.
- Staff were reassured that projects do not have to be hugely time consuming or lengthy to write up. The '**5 minute improvement**' model was shared.
- QI and Audit Leads set **time** aside in their diaries to be able to respond to any queries and arranged meetings to support therapists as needed.
- QI Leads shared **learning** of QI approaches in team meetings.
- QI/audit slots were added to team **meeting agendas** for staff to share their projects and the impact of their work.
- An easily **accessible folder** with examples of past projects was created and shared with staff.
- An updated combined **project tracker** for Paediatric and Adult service was created and saved in a central location.

## Impact

- All the QI/audit activity has been shared at the Therapies QI meetings and some have been selected to be presented at the Therapies Governance Meetings which raises the profile of the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy service and enables staff members to receive the recognition they deserve.
- Submissions have been made to showcase projects wider in the CTMUHB QI Showcase event and RCSLT Wales Hub day.
- Engaging staff has resulted in a significant increase in QI/audit work over a 12 month period has had huge benefits to the service including a wide range of areas outlined by Backhouse (2020) and the King's Fund such as:

- **Enhanced patient care**
- **Cost efficiency**
- **Increased safety**
- **Empowerment of staff**
- **Sustainable services**

## Results

The number of QI/audit activity exceeded predictions and there was a **316%** increase in completed QI/audit projects in the paediatric SLT team from March 2025 to March 2026.

Fig. 1 A comparison between QI/audit activity in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 showing projects started, completed, abandoned and ongoing.

Fig 1 Paediatric S&LT QI & Audit activity comparing data between 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

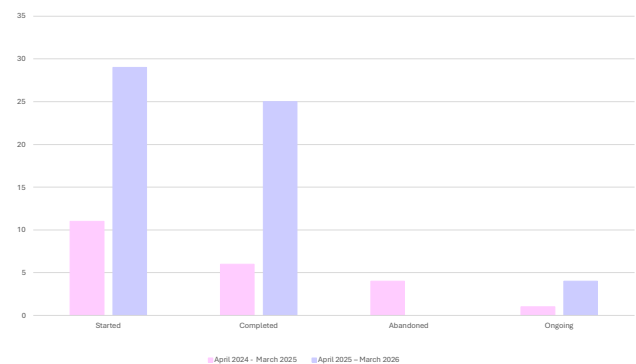


Fig 2 & 3 shows a comparison of the percentage of projects completed, abandoned and rolled over in March 2025 and then March 2026:

- In 2025 around half of projects (55%) that were started were completed. From the projects that were not completed the majority were abandoned with only one rolled over.
- In March 2026 **86%** of projects that were started were completed. From the projects not completed all were rolled over and none were abandoned.

This demonstrates a change in commitment from the staff to not only start but also continue and complete projects including writing them up in formats which can be shared.

Fig 2 2025 - Final figures of QI/Audit activity showing percentage of projects completed, abandoned and ongoing

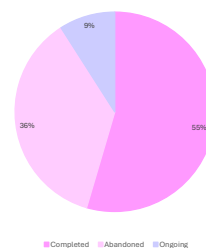
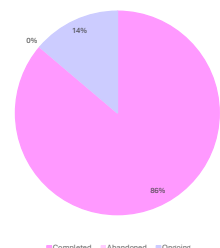


Fig 3 2026 - Final figures of QI/Audit activity showing percentage of projects completed, abandoned and ongoing



## References

Backhouse A, Ogunlayi F. Quality improvement into practice *BMJ* 2020; 368 :m865 doi:10.1136/bmj.m865

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/making-case-quality-improvement>