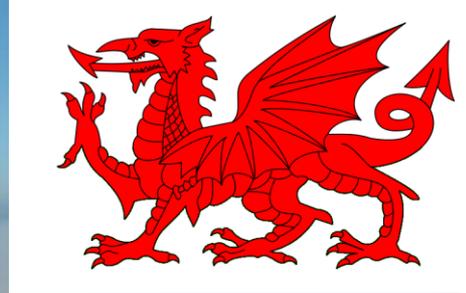




# A Flying Start for children in Wales: the early language element

Catherine Pape, Flying Start SLT, Powys

# A point of view from Wales...



# Flying Start: 4 elements



# Secondment to WG

FS guidance on SLC:

- <https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/150529-guidance-on-speech-en-v1.pdf>



# 'Learning to Talk' Key messages

*'Talking is what we need to do and I will learn it all from you'*

- Play your part right from the start
- Keep our language alive and I will thrive
- Our best place is face to face
- Sing me a rhyme at nappy time
- Talk, Talk, Talk – Please talk to me
- Listen to me, not the TV
- Let's look at a book
- Let's play everyday
- For clear speech keep my dummy out of reach

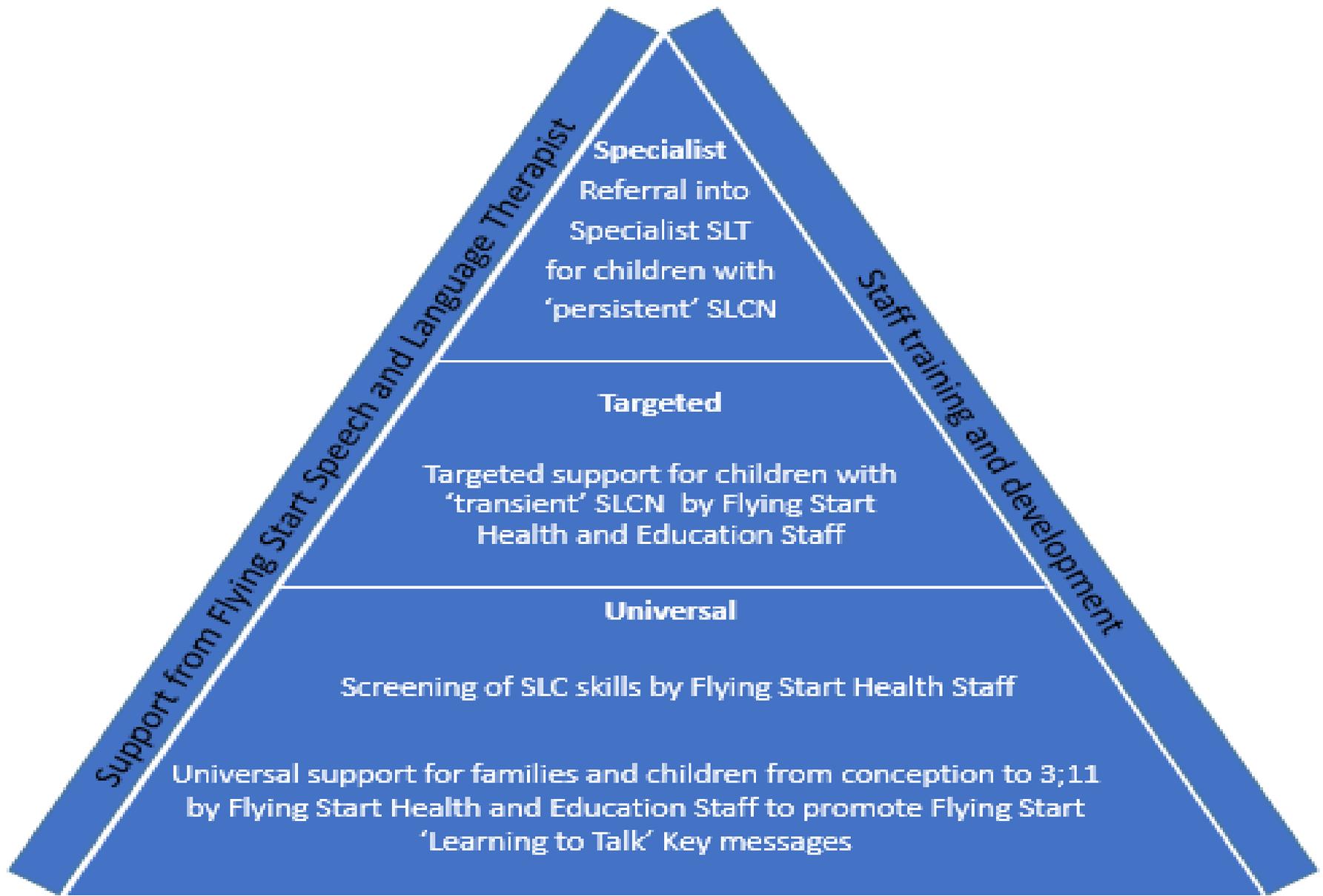


# Flying Start CEN

- Biannual meetings with representation from all 22 LAs and 7HBs
- Supported by RCSLT, including OM project
- Joint planning, feed into WG
- A strong voice for the profession...



# SLT role in FS



# DEVELOPING SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION SKILLS: WHAT WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

All practitioners and parents will understand the importance of speech, language and communication and know how best to create a language-rich environment.



## Antenatal Classes

My parents learnt from antenatal classes how important it is to talk, sing and read to me.



## Health Visitor

My Health Visitor is really knowledgeable and understands language is a protective factor. She reinforces key language development messages.



## Healthy Child Wales

In my Healthy Child Wales review, my Health Worker talks to my parents/carers about language development and checks if I need help.



## Flying Start

If I live in a Flying Start area I am supported by practitioners in childcare, health visiting and parenting who have had lots of training in language and development; and access to a Speech & Language Therapist to help them help me.



## Adult Child Interaction Sessions

My Health Visitor checks how I'm doing and suggests my parents go to Speech Language Therapist Adult Child Interaction Sessions for advice and ideas on how best to help my talking.



## Childcare

I have a funded part time childcare place where staff have had lots of training in supporting children with speech, language and communication needs.



## In School

In class I have lots of opportunities to learn new words so I am able to learn and make friends.

# outcomes



Change in language skills

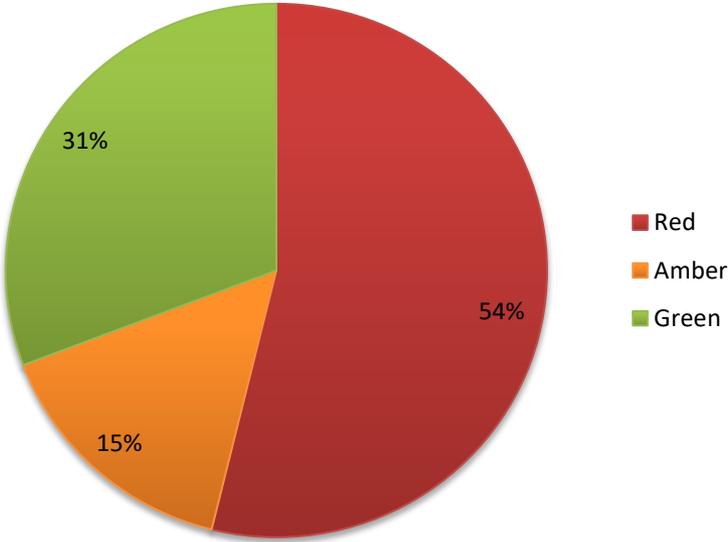
Change in family

Change in environment

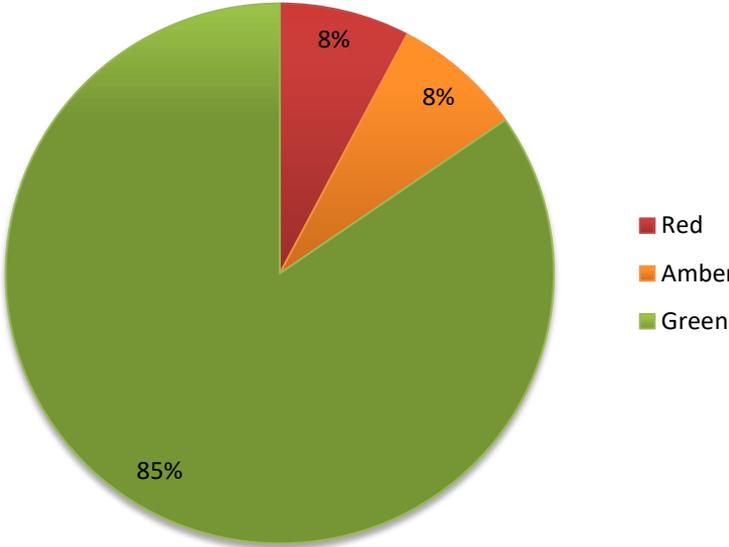


# Change in the Child: Torfaen

18 Month WellComm

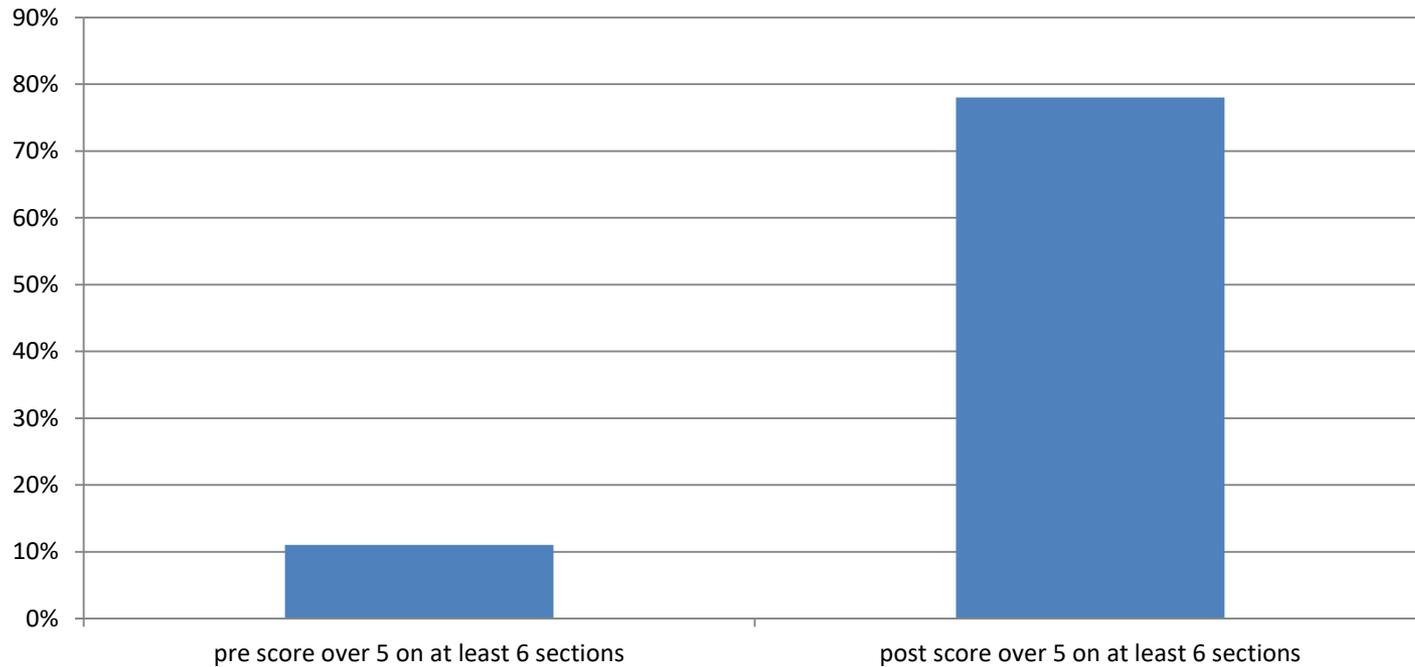


36 month WellComm



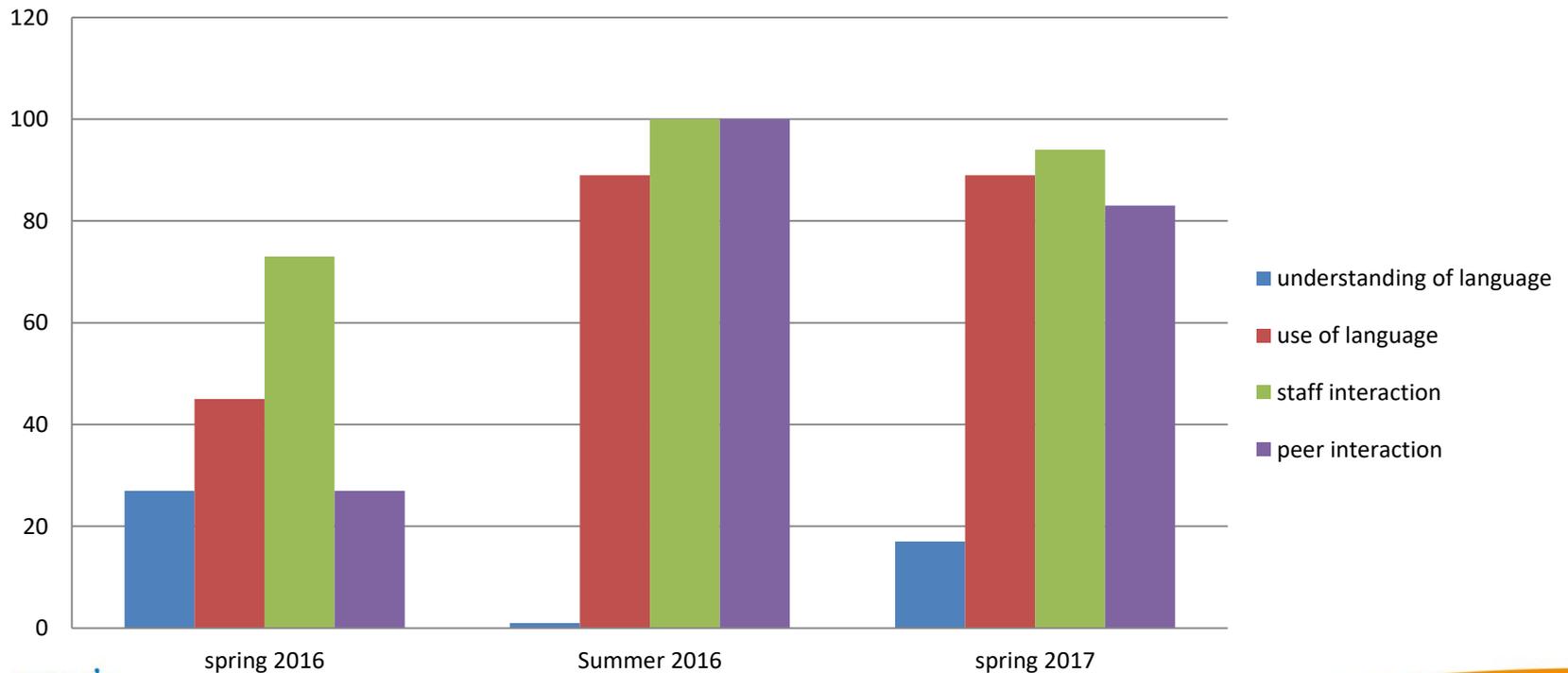
# Change in the Environment: Torfaen

## Teacher Interaction and Language Rating Scale



# Change in the Environment: Torfaen

## Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale Scores



# Bridgend

- In 2015, the Bridgend Flying Start Speech and Language Therapists won an NHS Wales award for their work in reducing language delay in two and three year olds
- The Speech and Language Therapists worked with FS nurseries in Bridgend to achieve a significant reduction in the number of children with delayed language skills
- Out of over 600 children screened on starting nursery, 73% were assessed as having significant language delay, which would impact on future learning development
- After the interventions delivered by nursery staff which were planned and supported by the Flying Start Speech and Language Therapists, 68% of the children with the worst language delay had improved (see poster)

# Blaenau Gwent

- Data from the Blaenau Gwent FS service which has 0.5 fte SLT was recently chosen to present at the RC SLT national scientific conference and may be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13lx9lfmB3FsISKw7qaR8xIVKTy5z62ExBIPySD5i7i4/edit?usp=sharing>

- Blaenau Gwent's data is in line with the national data on language skills of children who live in deprived areas, with 53% of children identified as experiencing difficulties with their language development.

- Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those engaged in the Elklan 'Let's Talk with your Baby' programme scored green. Compared to those that hadn't attended, those that did were twice as likely to have a green outcome.



# Be Here Be Clear: preventing early language difficulties

- A Bevan exemplar project to develop, pilot and evaluate a new preventative parenting strategy

"vast improvement in only the four visits"

- A collaboration between Speech & Language Therapy, Health Visitors and Action for Children

- Strong emphasis on co-production and involving Dads
  - 4 sessions, delivered at home, in which each parent is filmed with their child and then supported to choose a relevant target (e.g. Getting face to face; following the child's lead)

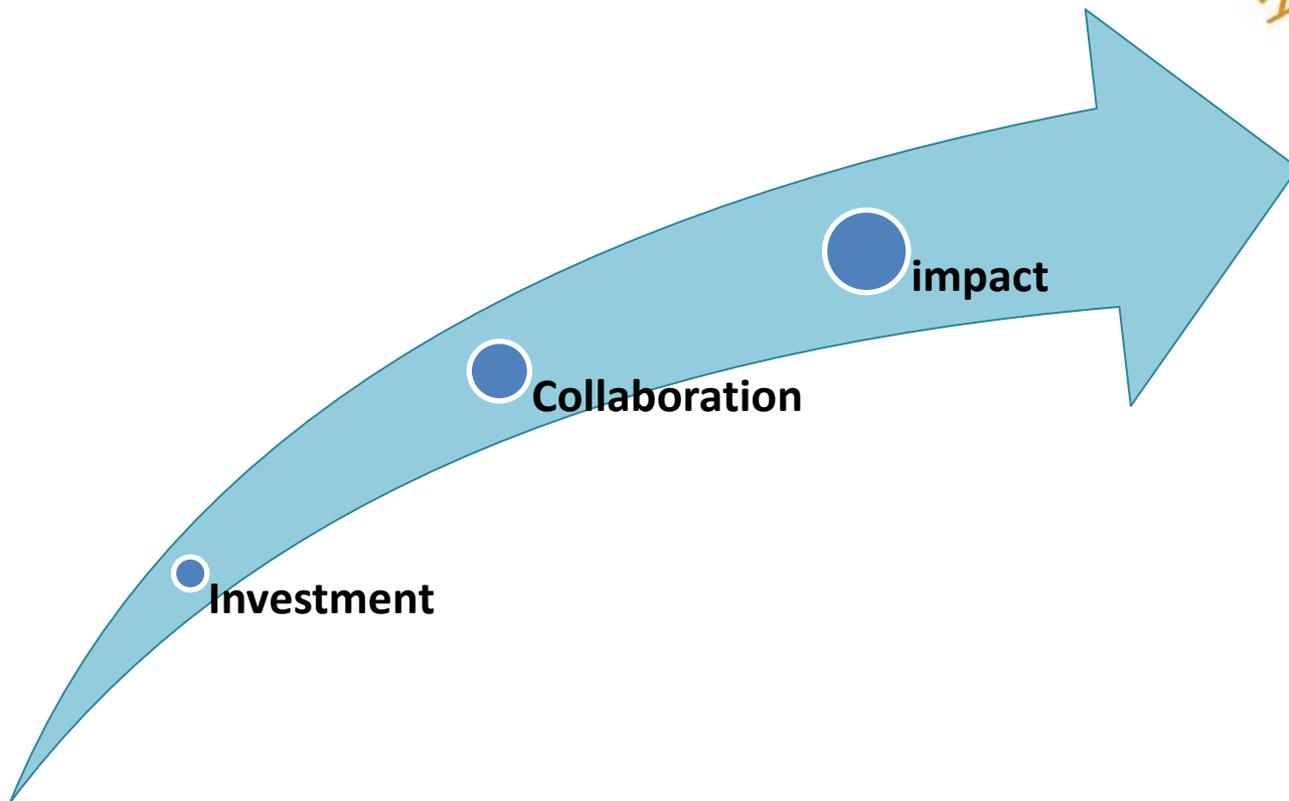


"when she babbles I interpret what she is babbling about"



"[she is] babbling more, trying to talk"

"great to have this helpful team in developing my daughter's language"



**Investment**

**Collaboration**

**impact**

# Language as a wellbeing indicator

- Using FS evidence to influence wider public health agenda
- AHPs in PHW framework
- 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 days
- ACES



# Making a difference in Tiny Lives: the Development of a Neonatal and Highly Complex Needs SLT Network across Northern Ireland



**Christine McCormick - Principal SLT  
Neonatal Lead- Belfast Trust**



# Why SLT In Neonatal Care?

- Babies born prematurely are at increased risk of **feeding** and **early communication difficulties**, due to being born early or having complex medical conditions that affect their **neurology** and functioning of the oral and pharyngeal structures required for sucking and swallowing

*Royal College of Speech/ Language Therapists Neonatal Working Group 2015*



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- 1800 premature births in Northern Ireland annually
- These infants require early support for survival, long term development and improved health outcomes
- As dysphagia associated with increased morbidity and mortality, early identification of those at risk is important



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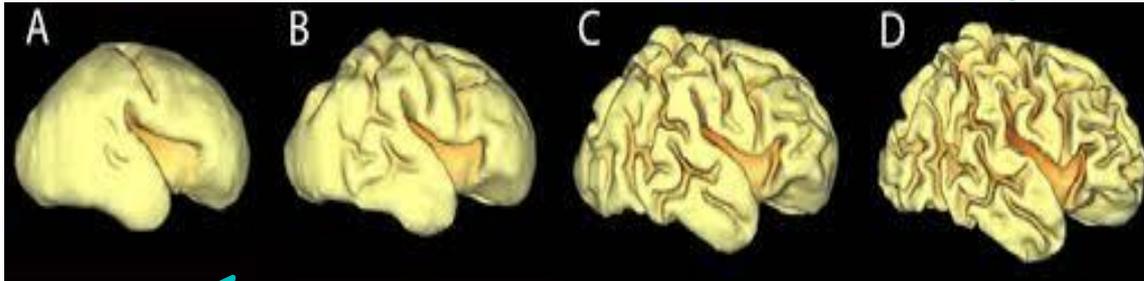
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# Building brains

Targeted  
early  
intervention

AHPs  
Working in  
partnership  
with the  
MDT



Collaborating  
with parents

Sharing  
knowledge



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# SLT role



**Developmental Care-** SLTs support this as part of wider team, to encourage family centred care; reduce environmental stressors e.g. noise, light; encourage bonding- skin to skin (helps milk production) and parents' voices; positive touch to reduce aversions



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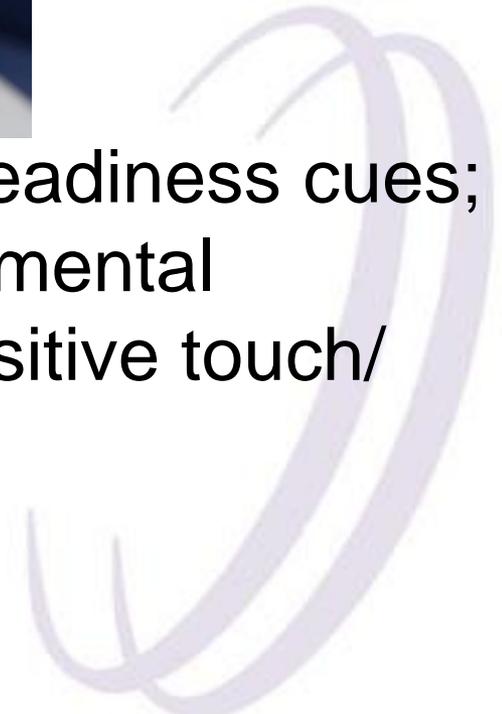


- **Feeding Assessment/Support-** Readiness cues; Infant driven feeding; Clinical/ instrumental assessment; supportive feeding; Positive touch/ oral experience



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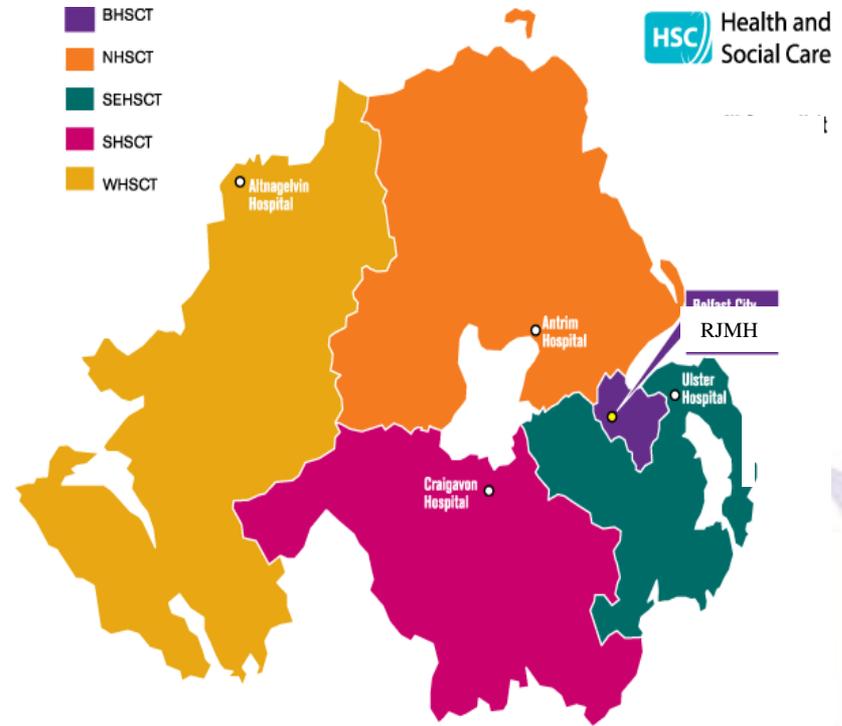
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# How did we deliver transformation?

Via.....

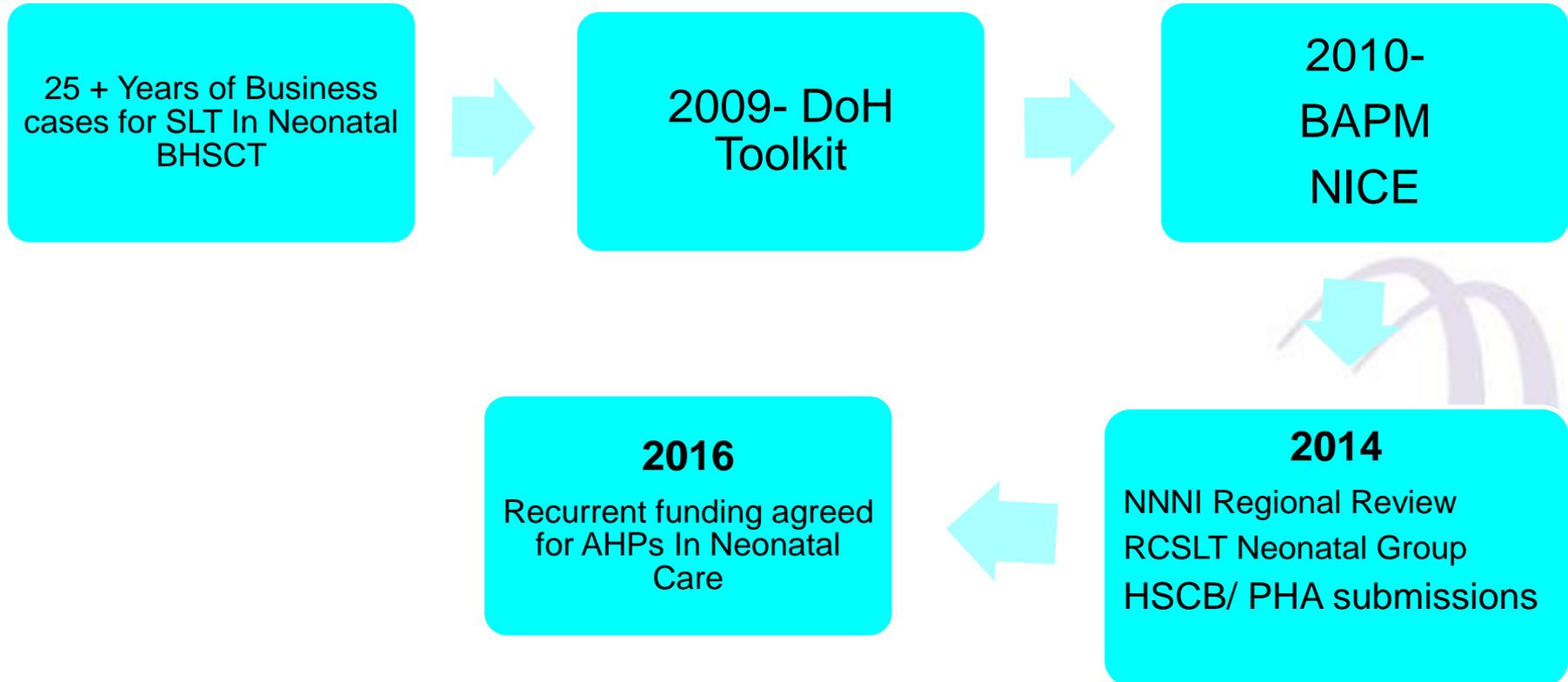
- Opportunity
- Investment
- Networking



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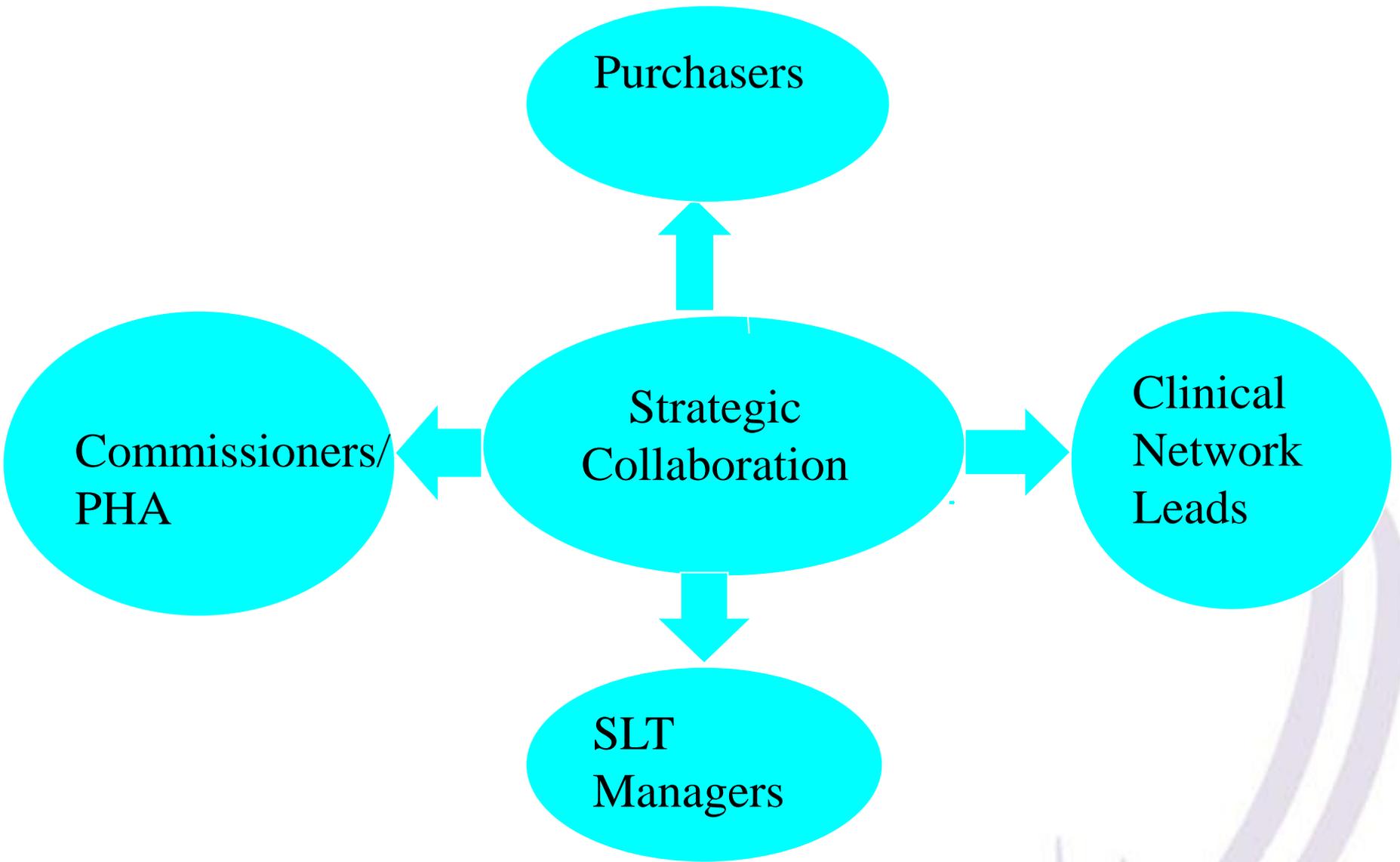
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# Background



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BHSCT Corporate Management Plan 2020/21- regional transformation priorities **include- improving the health of the population and improving quality and experience of health care**

BHSCT- Trust Values incl “**being leading edge**”

Strategic direction....**Right person, in the right place, delivering the right care** (Donaldson Report)

BHSCT- Quality Improvement Plan- **places the person receiving healthcare, at the centre**



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# Best Practice: Regional Requirement for Local Policy Development and Implementation

## Each Unit

- Establish relationships
- Identify AHP roles
- Identify Training Needs

## Regional Professional Groups

- Referral criteria
- Key areas of work

## Joint Initiatives

- Joint Audits/QI Projects
- Teaching
- Developmental Care Groups
- Sharepoint
- AHPs at Ward Rounds



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# Challenges



Time.....long game

Recruitment

Acceptance of AHPs

Small Resource

Increasing Demand



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# BLISS Review- feedback

- 2018 Regional BLISS Report commended AHP Neonatal Service development-

“Since the commencement of AHPs, we have truly experienced the meaning of a multidisciplinary team”



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# Future

- Regional Consistency
- Ongoing Training-  
parents/ staff
- Family Integrated  
Care
- AHP Ward Rounds
- Outpatient Follow-up
- Improved Outcomes



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