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# A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION IN LIMAVADY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

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Background

Partner agencies

Project activities

Results

Benefits/ limitations

# Partner Agencies



- Dry Arch Family Centre (Project Managing role)
- Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
- Project schools
  - Drumachose Primary School
  - Termoncanice Nursery & Primary Schools
  - Limavady Central Primary School
  - Roe Valley Integrated Primary School
  - Limavady Nursery School
- Roe Valley Residents Association
- Glens Community Association
- Western Education and Library Board
- Western HSC Trust

# Background



- Speech, Language and Communication identified as an increasing area of need by schools.
- Did Not Attend (DNA) rates can be as high as 20% in some SLT clinics in Western HSC Trust.
- Limavady identified as an area of socio-economic deprivation by NI Statistics & Research Agency
- Monies became available via Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership - CEIP Community Education Initiative Programme

# Background



- March 2014 – 2 x Band 5 SLTs released from Western Trust to carry out initial language screen using WellComm tool with 303 cohort children in Nursery and Primary one.
- Findings of Wellcomm screen – 68% of children identified as having either ‘moderate’ or ‘severe’ level of communication delay.
- Band 7 Speech and Language Therapist appointed July 2014 to work full time on the pilot July 14 – March 15

# Project activities 2014-15

## Children



Activity	Targeting	Outcome measure
Summer language groups	Children starting Primary 1 Sept 14 (15 attended)	Bromsgrove and Redditch Attention and Listening Skills Rating scale (2009)
Weekly in-class language groups	303 cohort children	Wellcomm screen (2010)
Small group activities	76 children who scored 'red' on Wellcomm	Wellcomm screen (2010)
School-based clinic for 1:1 therapy (parents invited to participate)	16 children	Reduction in Clinical Risk as described in Malcolmess Care Aims model (2005)

# Building Capacity 2014-15



Activity	Targeting	Outcome measure
Elklan 2 day overview Speech and Language Support for Under 5s	35 Nursery, P1 & P2 Teachers and classroom assistants	Pre and post training questionnaires completed
One day Introduction to Speech, Language and Communication	12 Community sector staff/ volunteers	Pre and post training questionnaires completed
7 week Elklan 'Lets talk with the Under 5s'	10 Parents/ community volunteers/ workers	Questionnaires/ informal feedback
Monthly parent Craft and Coffee mornings (3)	Parents of all cohort children invited	Informal feedback

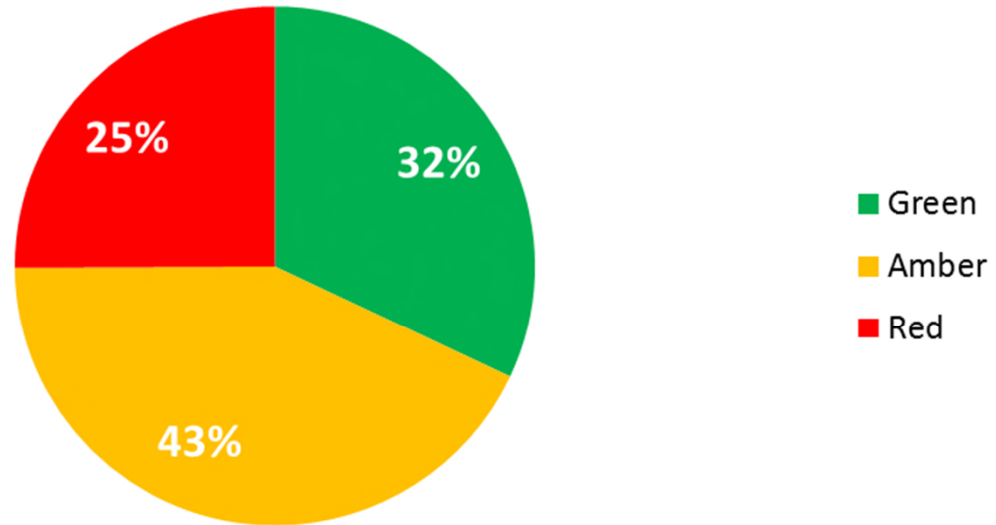
# Results

**Red** - Language skills are significantly delayed

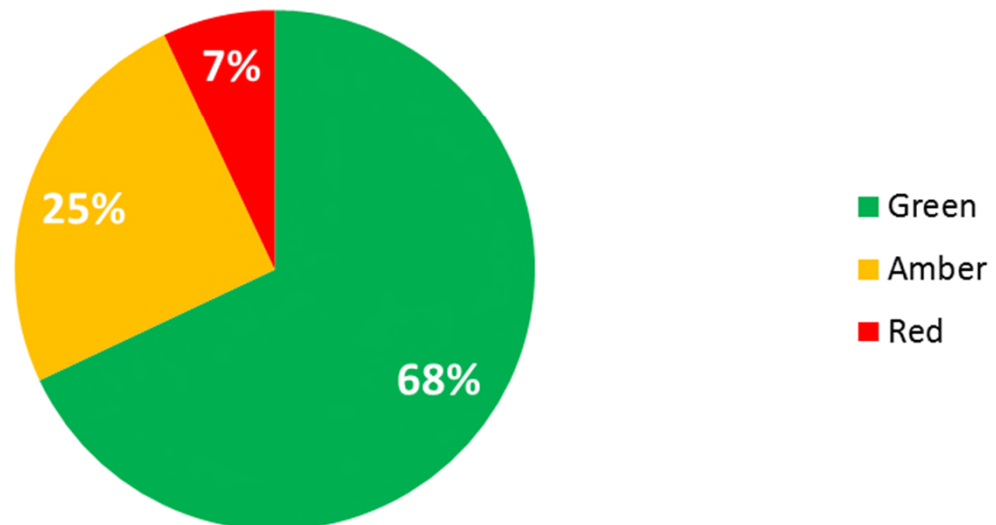
**Amber** – Language skills are mildly delayed

**Green** – Language skills are age appropriate

## WellComm March 2014



## WellComm February 2015





# Benefits



- Improves communicative ability of whole population
- Children who have previously been discharged for non-attendance are receiving input:
  - 9 via individual therapy, 35 in whole class groups
- Liaison between Core SLTs/ Education much more easily facilitated.
- Holistic view of child informs clinical risk.

# Benefits



- Increased opportunities for on-going clinical discussion with teachers – building capacity.
- Language difficulties being identified in children not previously known to Core Services.
- Parents can be supported in engaging with SLT in school environment.
- Collaborative working between several local agencies.

# Limitations



- Liaison with other Trust staff e.g. Health Visitors is currently limited due to current Trust pressures.
- A percentage of children will always need to attend Core Services as their difficulties require long term and/ or specialist intervention.
- WellComm screen does not take speech disorder into account.

# 2015-16 update



- CEIP funding is no longer available to finance the project.
- Project schools agreed to combine their Extended Schools monies to fund an amended version of the Pilot on a part time basis.
- Along with a contribution from Western HSC Trust it is currently operating 3 days/ week  
September 15 – June 16.

# 2015-16 update



- Working with Trust to examine impact of programme on Core SLT service with regard to:
  - Number of referrals to Core Service
  - % DNA rates in school based clinics
  - Capacity building, levels of awareness regarding Speech, Language & Communication in Education staff.

# References



- Malcomess, K.: (2005) The Care Aims Model. In Anderson, C and van der Gaag, A (eds.) Speech and Language Therapy: Issues in Professional Practice. London: Whurr Publishers Ltd.
- The Bercow Report: A review of Services for Children and Young People (0-19) with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (2008) ISBN: 978-1-84775-211-6
- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency [www.nisra.org](http://www.nisra.org)
- WellComm: A Speech and Language Toolkit for the Early Years Sandwell Primary Care Trust (2010)



# Questions?