

# TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S (CYP) SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY (SLT) SERVICE TO TACKLE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

AUTHORS: KATE HAYMAN, CLAIRE MACLEAN, LOUISA MCGUIRE AND LESLEY ORR  
NHS FORTH VALLEY  
Contact: [lesley.orr4@nhs.scot](mailto:lesley.orr4@nhs.scot)



## INTRODUCTION

- In 2019 26% of the population in Forth Valley had a predicted Speech, Language and communication need (SLCN)
- The service model was only meeting the needs of 8-10% of this population
- Predicted needs were higher in areas of deprivation
- Engagement with the service for families with health inequalities was lower than the rest of the population

## AIM

All CYP in Forth Valley will demonstrate improved outcomes through access to a SLT service that delivers quality supports for the whole population, tackling health inequalities, early intervention, prevention and self management

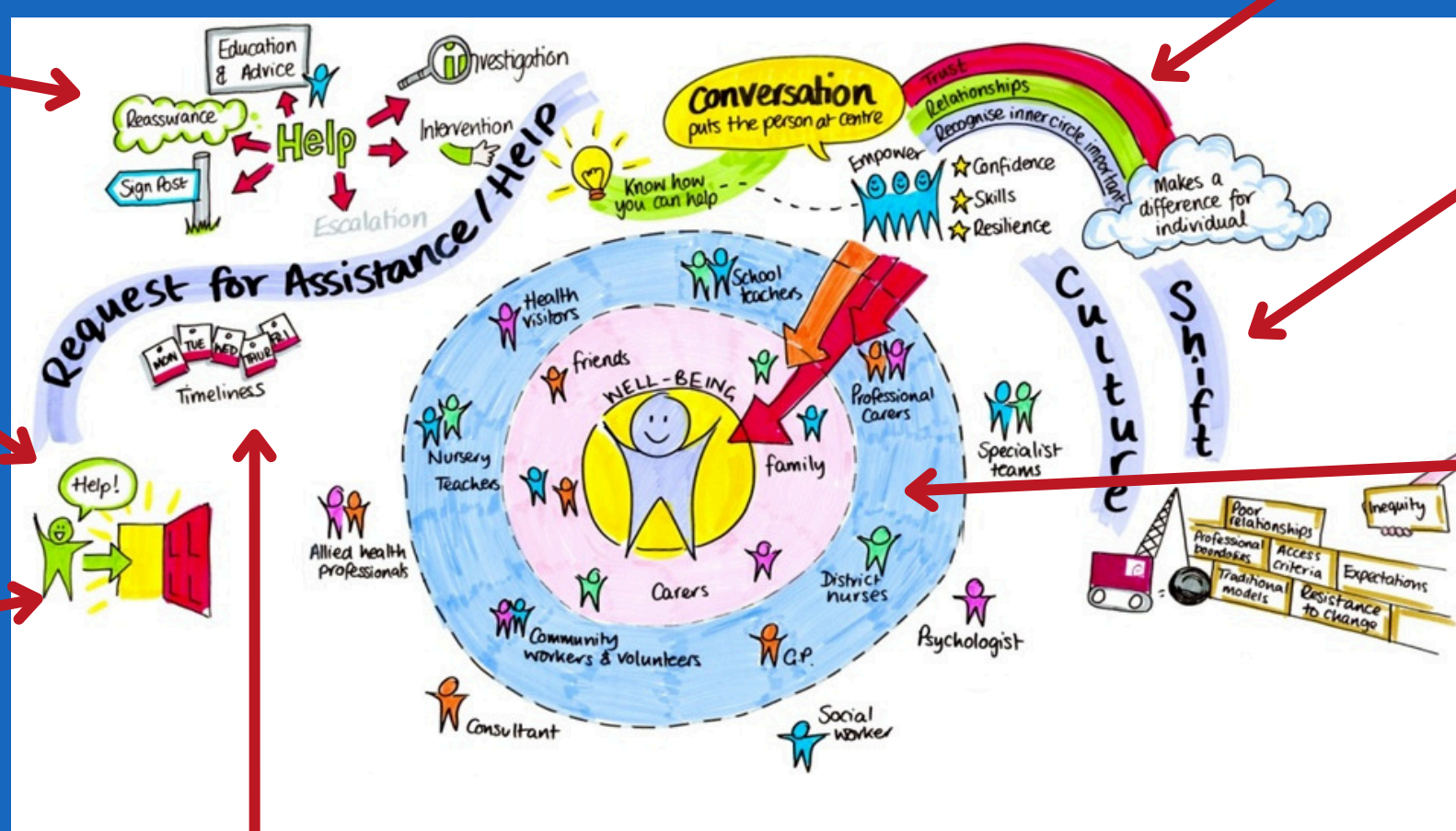
## METHOD

Listened to families and the wider workforce and changed our model to be actively present in education settings. We prioritised relationships with adults closest to the CYP

Provided early conversations with alternative outcomes

Provided easy access to our expertise with no need to refer

Provided a named link SLT for every education setting

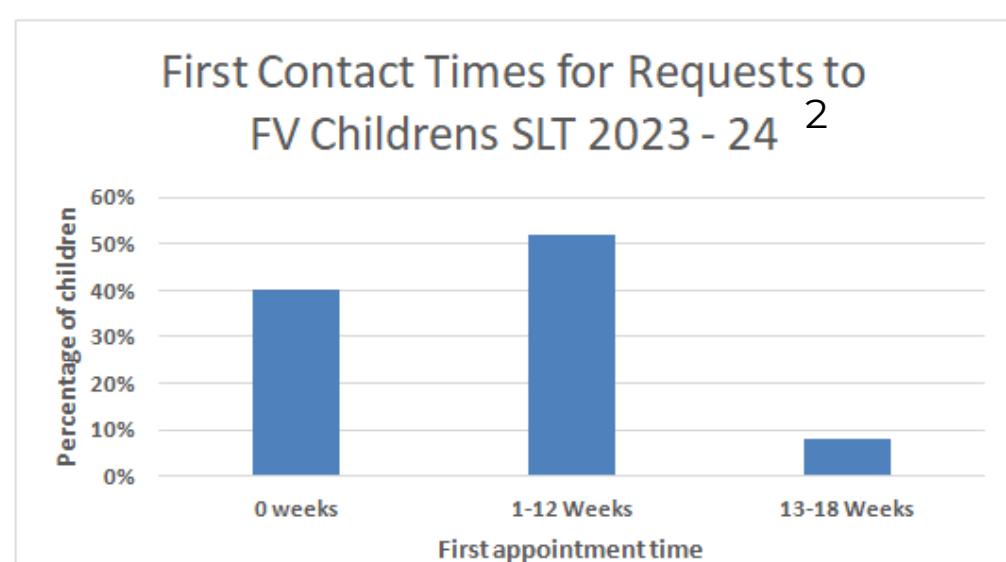


Shifted focus to a whole systems approach (1) providing early support for ALL CYP

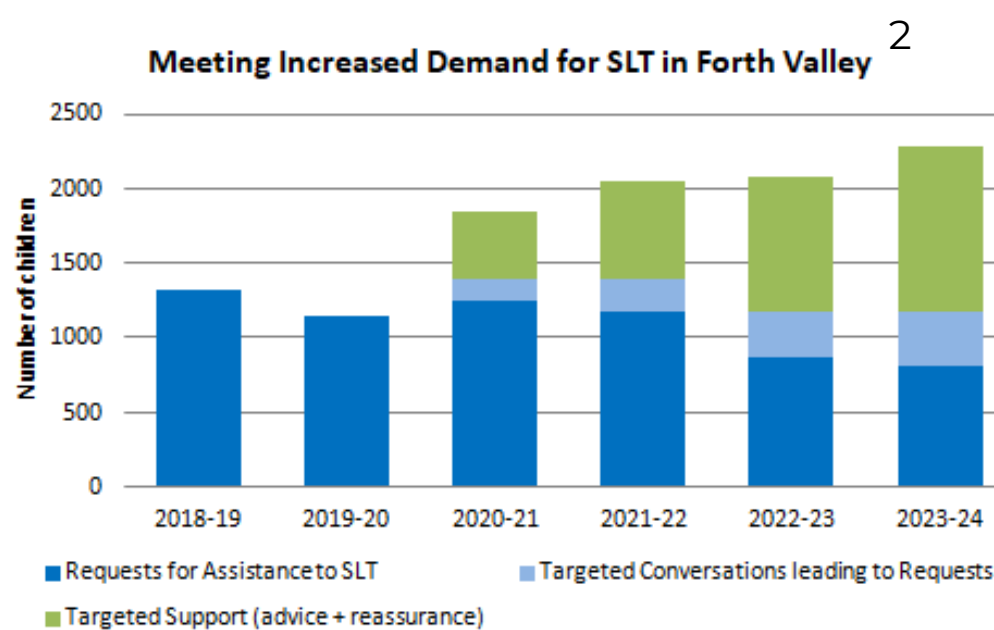
Shared our expertise through training and coaching in education settings to build resilience in those closest to the child

## OUTCOMES/RESULTS

Timely response to referrals



Meeting the needs of more CYP and families



## Training Events 2023-24

- 266 events followed by coaching from link SLT
- 48% of education placements had at least one training session
- Total of 2284 education colleagues attended training events

Education quotes

We are all confident to have a chat about any concerns. My queries were minor things that I now have the confidence to discuss with parents, and I will be equipped with this knowledge for any children I encounter in the future.

She has equipped me with tools and strategies that made me more confident in supporting the pupil effectively. I felt reassured in that conversation that the correct support had been in place within the classroom.

Parent quotes

How amazed I was that there is SLT support in school rather than medicalising it

A brilliant service. To be honest, I thought the offer was too good to be true, but I was immediately put through to a speech therapist who was incredibly helpful. Thank you!

## Conclusion

Integrating SLT services into education settings results in timely, cohesive support that can transform the communication experiences of CYP, regardless of health inequalities.

## References

1. Equity for all (2021) Gascoigne, M Children's Speech and Language Therapy Services in Scotland, Better Communication CIC
2. NHS Forth Valley Speech and Language Therapy (2024) Review of Transformational Service Change, Unpublished report