

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY CO-DESIGN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY (CDCSLT) CO-DESIGNED AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT PARENTS/CARERS WHILST WAITING ON INITIAL ASSESSMENT

The CDC SLT service supports the speech, language and communication development of children presenting with developmental difficulties and other co-occurring conditions such as autism, Downs Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. The CDCSLT team is part of the Adult Community, Older People Services (ACOPS and AHPs) directorate. The CDCSLT works closely with families and other key people in the child's world, to empower them with the knowledge on how best to support the needs of each child and develop a communication rich environment. This can involve working in the child's home or nursery as well as bringing them into a clinic.

The aim of the Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) project was to ascertain the opinions of and involve parents/carers in, the design, content and communication medium of an Introductory workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to explain about the CDCSLT service and to inform parents/carers about how speech, language and communication develops.

In addition the workshop wanted to offer some information on how the CDCSLT team would help them to support their child's speech, language and communication within their everyday life, in a way that was meaningful and practical for them.

## HOW WAS THIS DONE?

The CDCSLT team created the initial content for the workshop. The workshop was then delivered online via MS Teams to 8 parents of children who were waiting for an initial assessment appointment. Parents completed a questionnaire and engaged in a focus group after the workshop and provided feedback regarding;

- Advice concerning the layout and design of the presentation slides
- The best method to deliver the workshop e.g. face to face versus online
- How important and relevant the content of the workshop was for parents / carers
- Having a pre-recorded workshop that parents / carers could watch at any time
- Information for future delivery of the workshop they felt would be helpful to other parents.

The service responded to the feedback received and amended the workshop content. Parents reported that they had implemented the strategies and advice prior to getting their assessment appointment in clinic and found these helpful in supporting their child's speech, language and communication skills at home.

The CDC SLT team worked with Corporate Communications and Business Planning to provide a pre-recorded workshop and created a QR code. These are now sent by text message when the child is added to the waiting list. The service engaged in a further PPI project to gain feedback from a larger number of parents, whose children had already had an assessment. Feedback has been very positive.