

Alison Gooding, Speech and Language Therapist and the Get Doon tae Chat network, East Ayrshire.

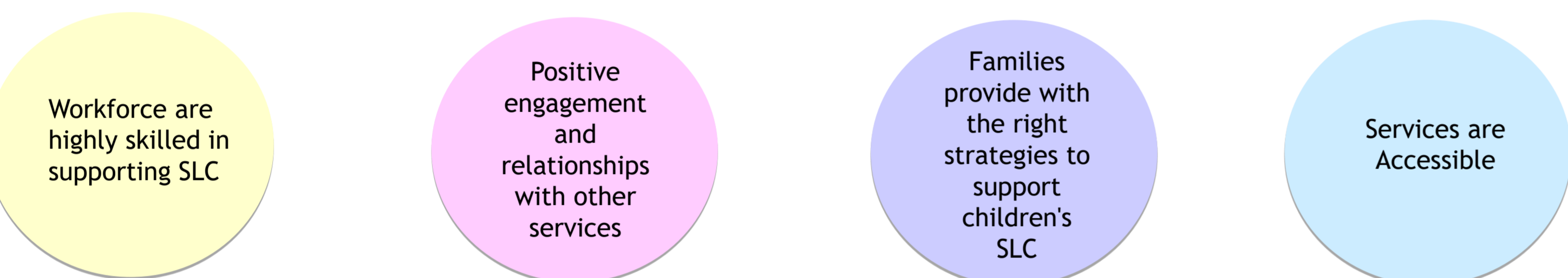
The *Get Doon tae Chat* network was established in response to a high level of concern relating to speech, language and communication (SLC) at the 27-30 month health check in the Doon Valley, East Ayrshire. Representatives from Speech and Language Therapy (SLT), local Early Years Establishments (ECCs), East Ayrshire Council, Community Practitioners and Health are involved in this collaborative network. The project recognises the importance of providing early intervention and advice to families with young children to attempt to alleviate this high level of concern.

**Aim: to reduce concern in language and communication at the 27-30 month assessment from 30% to 20% in the Doon Valley by June 2019, whilst also supporting SLC development amongst all children under 5 in the area.**

## Method

The *Get Doon tae Chat* collaborative network meets on a regular basis to review progress and share good practice. A Driver Diagram which shows the aim, drivers and change ideas was devised and is used to ensure focus remains on the aim. 27-30 month data and early literacy data (ELLAT) is regularly reviewed. Each ECC in East Ayrshire has a Communication Champion (CC) - an Early Learning Childcare Practitioner who receives additional training and drives forward initiatives to promote the development of SLC skills within their establishments. The CCs in the Doon Valley are pivotal to the project and are continuously testing various initiatives. Quality improvement methodology and collaborative working are at the heart of the initiatives taken forward.

## Process Change



### Our Primary Drivers

Collaborative universal and targeted initiatives have been developed such as working with Health Visitors to develop SLT universal involvement following the 8-month check leading to the development of a *Get Wee People Chatting Booklet*; running *targeted groups for under 3s* and supporting the implementation of *SPARK* – a Hanen family coaching programme delivered by Community Practitioners/Health Visitor Support workers to those who would benefit from it. Parental initiatives were devised and tested by the CCs including *Chatter Matters* sessions; *The Chatting Challenge* and *The Big Bedtime Read*.

## Achievements

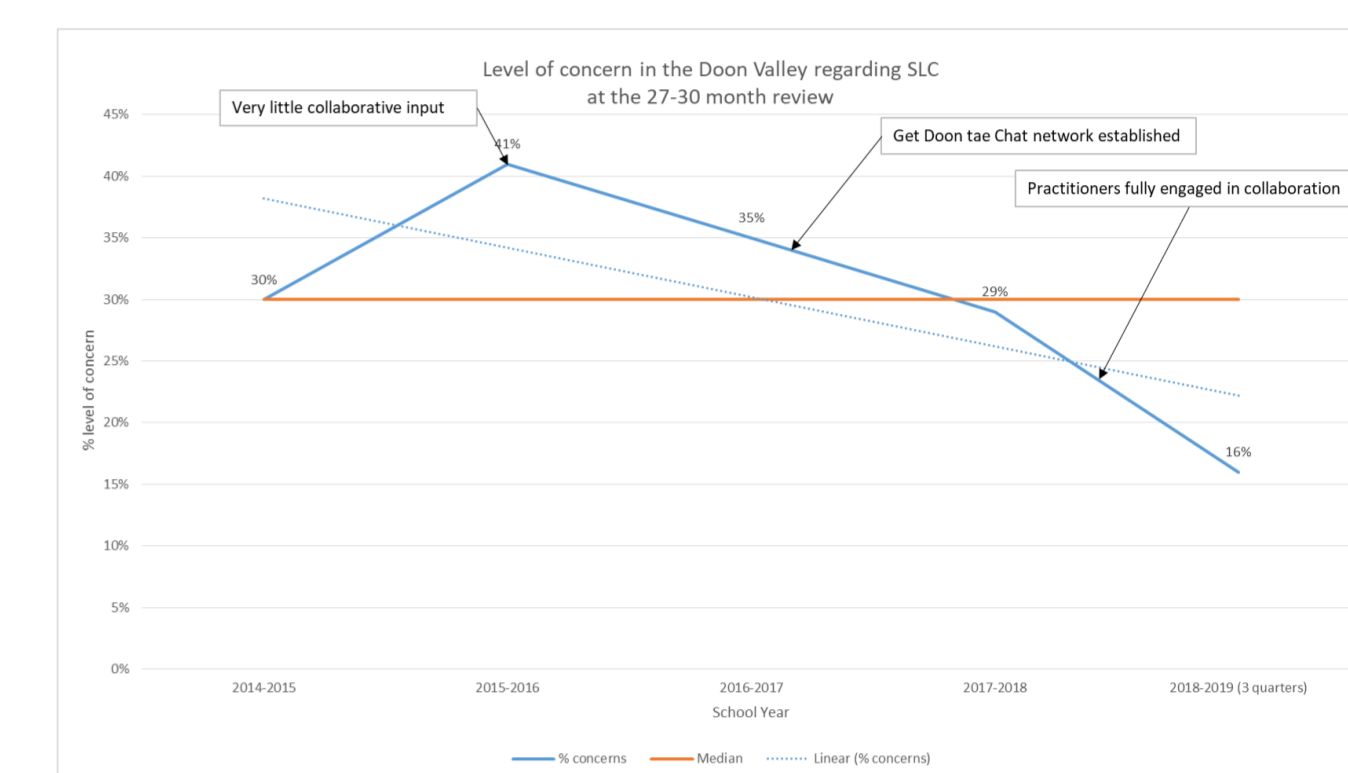
- Education and health colleagues are skilled in supporting children's SLC skills.
- Parents are engaging more with initiatives run by CCs.
- Families are able to access advice about strategies to boost children's SLC skills in their own homes and local communities.
- There are stronger relationships between services as a result of the network.

## Key Learning Points

- **Strong relationships** are at the heart of this initiative - not just within the network, but with the community too and families being engaged throughout.
- **Services delivered within the community.** The Doon Valley is a rural area, and there can be some barriers to accessing services. Taking initiatives into the communities has made a difference.
- **Leadership:** CCs and other professionals have embraced all training provided and have devised and run key parental initiatives.

## Results

Results so far show that the risk is reducing at 27-30 month health check. Recent data shows that the percentage of children for whom there is concern about their SLC skills at 27-30 months has reduced to 16% in the first three quarters of 2018-2019 from 30% in 2014-2015.

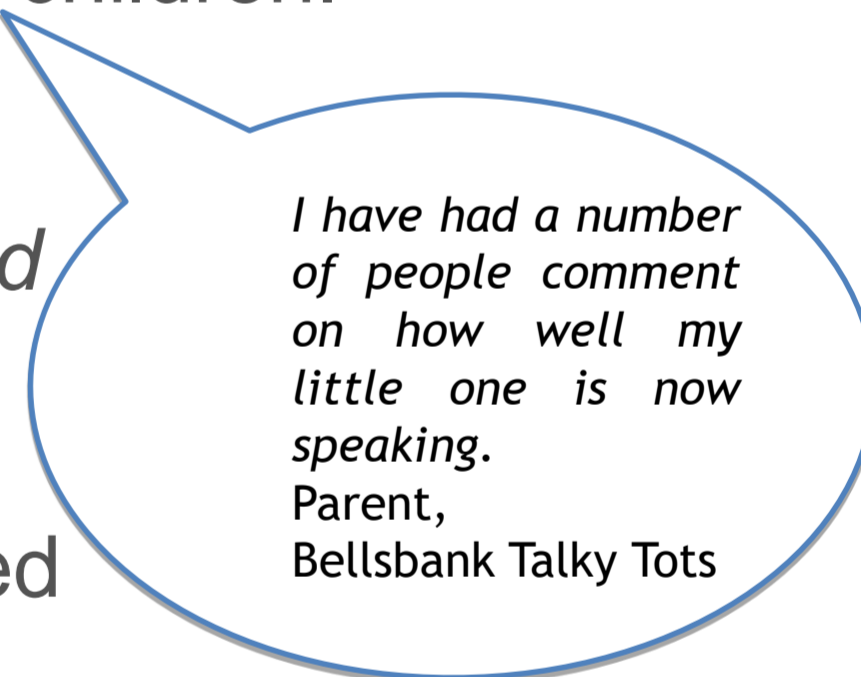


## Conclusions

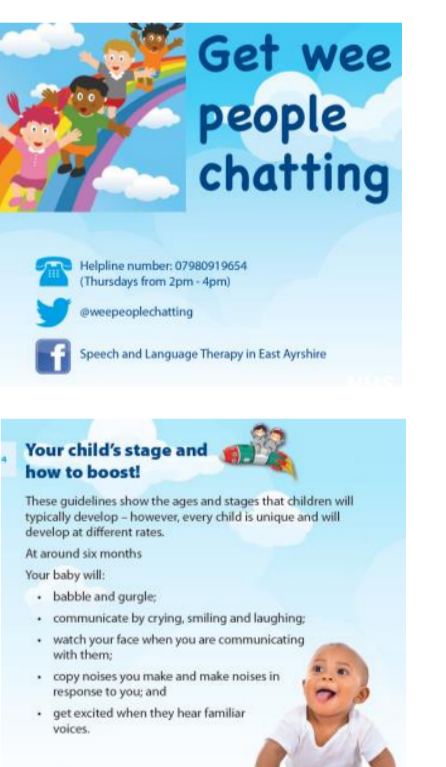
The data shows that the overall level of concern relating to SLC has reduced – in line with our aim. CCs report targeted work is having a significant impact on children's progress in relation to SLC and qualitative data also demonstrates the positive impact the work is having on children and their families in the area. For example: in a *Talky Tots* universal parent child group (children aged 18-21 months) 100% of parents reported positive impact on their interactions with their children.



Initiatives such as *The Big Bedtime Read* have proven successful – for example, prior to the project, one child, when asked if they had had a bedtime story the previous night, answered “No I'm too big for a story, I had Netflix instead.” In the final week of the initiative, the same child reported that they had shared a book with a parent 3 times that week.

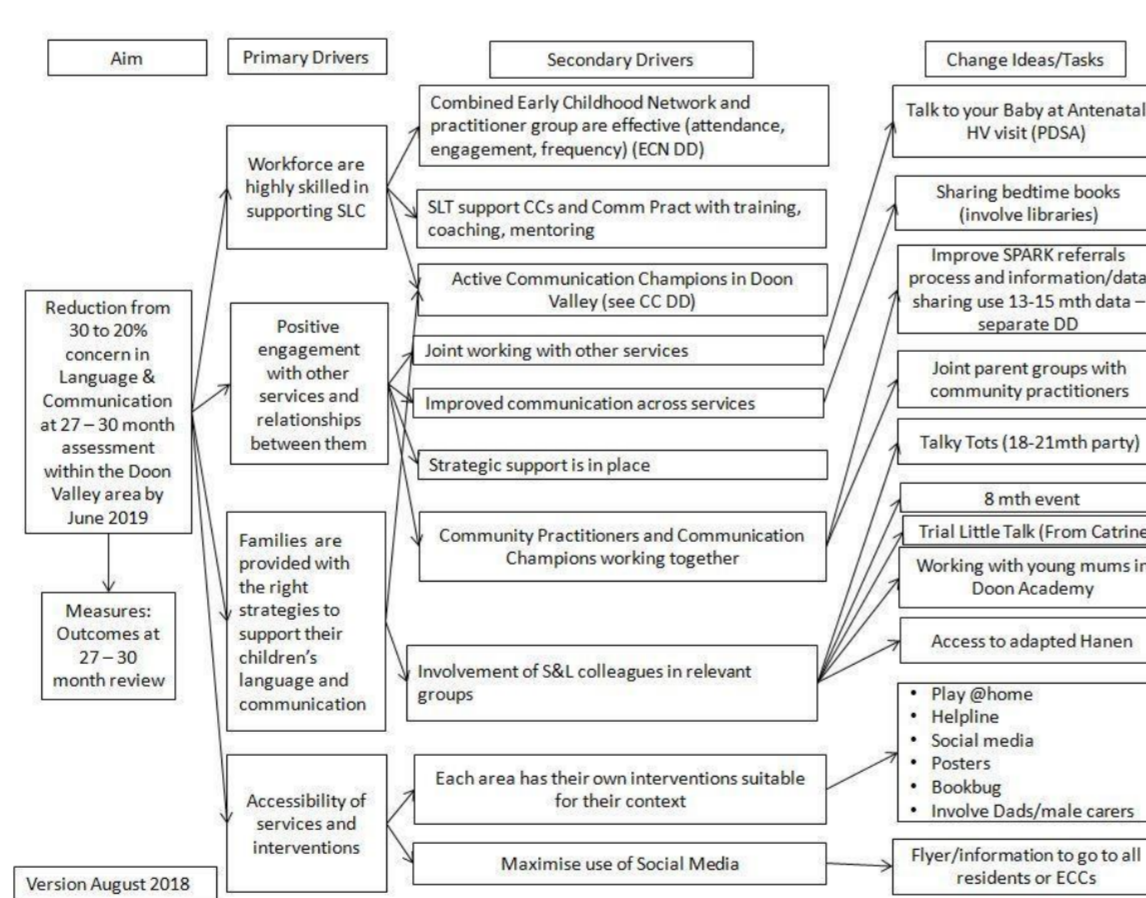


Parents and professionals report the strategies and advice given in universal and targeted groups, in the booklet and through the various initiatives help them to best support children's speech, language and communication development at the earliest stages.



## Scale / Spread

This project has been shown to be successful. The intention would be to continue with this work in the Doon Valley whilst looking to spread this work to another area with high level of SLC concern within East Ayrshire. This will be discussed further at the strategic CLAN (communication, language and nurture) meeting and a spread and scale plan agreed.



Our Driver Diagram

