



Spotlight on Warwickshire County Council and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Speech and Language Therapy

Warwickshire County Council and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Speech and Language Therapy 'time to talk' team is the winner of the Children's Workforce Award at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards. The judges were impressed with the services 'time to talk' provide supporting the development of early language and communication skills in babies and children across 39 Children's Centres and 120 early years settings.

Funded by Warwickshire County Council and in partnership with South Warwickshire Foundation Trust the 'time to talk' team work with parents, early years practitioners and other professionals to provide services supporting early communication, which are built around the child and family.

Campaigns such as Chatter Matters Week take the message into the wider community with top tips, leaflets, posters and activities supporting practitioners and families to develop the speech, language and communication skills of babies and young children across the county of Warwickshire.

The 'time to talk' project is implemented by a small team of Speech and Language Therapists and advisory teachers who train and work in partnership with a team member, known as a speech and language Champion in every children's centre and early years setting involved.

Currently there are over 150 Champions working across the county. These champions are trained and supported by the 'time to talk' team, taking on the role as an additional responsibility to their existing posts.

Warwickshire's 'time to talk' team's key objective is to develop a workforce that is able to effectively identify and support the speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) of all children. To reach this objective the Champions receive a multi-tier model of training to build their knowledge, skills and confidence in identifying children's speech, language and communication needs and in the use of strategies to support these.

Their training programme has been acknowledged as appropriate for The Communication Trust CACHE Level 3 Award in Speech, Language and Communication.

Champions are encouraged to share what they have learned and model different strategies and ideas to support children' speech, language and communication. They identify children with a 'red' level of need quickly and specialist SLT support is accessed. Children with an 'amber' level of need who were previously offered no specific services now receive support.





'time to talk' has played an instrumental part in establishing the pilot of the Two Year Old Integrated Review in the county, with reports of increased enthusiasm from Speech and Language Therapists wanting to learn more about how to help parents understand how they can help their children grow and develop.

The project is evaluated and the impact on outcomes over the past 12 months has seen a significant increase in the number of children achieving their potential in speech and language development.

