



Issue 4 January 2015

Welcome to the fourth newsletter for the Early Years Collaborative in South Lanarkshire.

In this edition:

- Meet the new Early Years Champion
- Update from our themes
- Update on our training and support activity
- We are changing – watch for our joint approach with RAFA
- Celebrating your work

Meet the new Early Years Champion

You will remember that last year we introduced you to Andrea Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion) and Early Years Champion. Andrea is now enjoying a well earned retirement. Anne Donaldson has joined us from North Lanarkshire Council as our new Head of Education (Inclusion) and Early Years Champion. Anne will chair the leadership group of the Early Years Collaborative, and is a great advocate of the improvement science approach. She has already been out and about meeting staff and colleagues in Education Resources, and is looking forward to getting to know more about all of the improvement work that is going on as part of the EYC in South Lanarkshire.



Update from our themes – a flavour of our activity

Parenting Support and Attachment

The consultation on the parenting pathway is now complete, with a series of consultation events with parents groups and voluntary sector organisations adding to the information already collected from events with staff earlier in the year. All of this information will be used to inform our options for the future delivery of parenting support in South Lanarkshire.

You and Your Child was one of our early tests of change and over the last year there has been lots of great improvement work carried out around the programme. The aim for the work was:

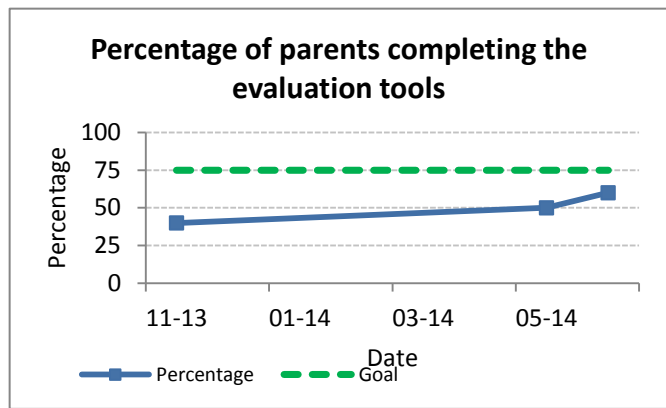
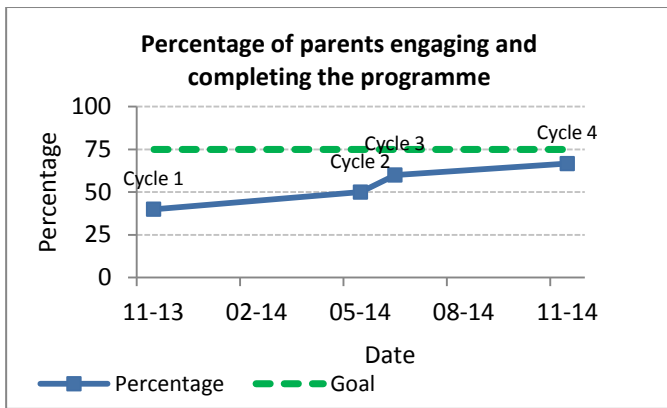
By September 2015, 90% of parents/ carers taking part in the You and Your Child Programme have improved parenting skills that demonstrate a positive impact on their children, and endure beyond the end of the programme and regardless of the setting in which it is delivered.

Our tests have involved developing tools to allow both parents and staff to track progress over the 12 weeks of the course; training staff to deliver in different settings; and we are now looking at how we measure the benefit for children where their parents have been on the course.

To allow us to track improvement over time, this overall aim has been broken down into a number of more focused aims:

- 75% of parents taking part in nursery based courses will complete the 12 week course
- 80% of parents/ carers will complete the three tools for capturing outcomes and impact of the programme

How are we doing? We feel we have been making good progress over the last 12 months:



Each cycle has involved lots of different PDSAs which have helped us to learn more and more each time we run a course. We are now working with Home School Partnership and Social Work colleagues in East Kilbride and Cambuslang/ Rutherglen where we will also be delivering courses – and doing more testing as we continue on our improvement journey!

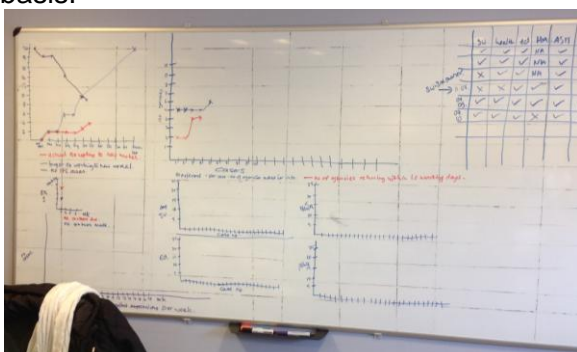
On the fifth December 2014, the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell, visited the group running in St Mary's Nursery Centre, Lanark. She spent nearly two hours in the centre, one of which was speaking with staff about the improvement approach, and a second hour with parents, learning about their experiences.



Substance misuse

Over 100 people attended an event in East Kilbride on 30 October to discuss the impacts of substance misuse on children and to help all partners across adult and children's services to network. A key aim of the day was to identify areas for improvement which we will now pick up as part of the work of the Substance misuse theme

One of the tests of change under this theme is the review of the *Intensive Family Support Team* - the team that some people know better as *Breaking the Cycle*. The team is based in the Homelessness team in Housing and Technical Resources, and the improvement work is being overseen by a multi-agency steering group with representatives from the NHS, Social Work, Housing, Education, Tackling Poverty and the Police. To date the group has developed a new process for working with families identified as benefiting from the support of the team, and a new way of working across the different agencies – many of whom are also working with the family. A number of process and outcome measures have been developed to track progress with the work. We, in the EYC love the way they are being displayed – all graphs grouped together on the team's whiteboard where they can be updated on a regular basis!



A great example of hand made charts on display so all the team can update and see the results of their work as they go along.

You don't need to be an IT whizz to collect and chart your data!!

Developmental Milestones is changing:

Our Developmental Milestones group will continue, but it is going to get more focused on a small number of work topics, each supported by a working group. From January 2015 we will be working on three priorities:

- Data capture and reporting in Education establishments (joint approach with the Raising Attainment for All Collaborative)
- 27-30 month child development review
- Speech and language

There are a number of tests of change going on related to all three of these topic areas and we will feature these in the next issue of the newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Michele at using the email address at the bottom of the page.

Would you like to know more about what is going on in your locality?

Link in with the Early Years Forum or Group in your locality. These groups are supported by Integrated Children's Services and provide a forum for discussion about what is going on in early years services in your locality. All improvement work associated with the Early Years Collaborative should be reported through these groups, and the EYC in turn supports the groups in achieving the aims that have been set out in the locality improvement plan.

Your contacts are:

Hamilton/ Blantyre	Elaine Crosbie	Elaine.crosbie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
East Kilbride/ Strathaven	Irene Campbell	gw14campbellirene@glow.sch.uk
Clydesdale/ Larkhall	Vivian Boxall	gw11boxallvivian@glow.sch.uk
Cambuslang/ Rutherglen	Mungo Shirkie	Mungo.Shirkie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Do you work or volunteer for a third sector organisation?

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) has been supporting third sector organisations to use the model for improvement as part of their work to improve outcomes for service users and how they work as organisations. If you'd like to know more, contact Charlie Duffin, the EYC Strategic Officer:

charlie.duffin@vaslan.org.uk

Update on training and support

On 17 November the EYC held a session aimed at staff who were working on improvement work that related to the Parenting Support and Attachment theme. 23 people attended the half day session in the Corporate Dining Room at Council HQ. All but two people had improvement ideas or were actively working on test of change ideas. We started the day with an exercise which doubled as an ice breaker and an introduction to the idea of test, learn and test again (PDSA in action). The groups then worked through aims, driver diagrams and thinking about doing a PDSA – who should be involved, what roles they all would play, how you could collect data and how would you start to build using this approach into your routine activity around staff observation, supervision/ meetings etc. The feedback was very positive with all those working on test of change ideas reporting that they had made progress. All participants also filled in a self evaluation of where they felt they were at the start of the day and at the finish. We will revisit these in a few weeks once people have had a chance to work on their ideas 'in the field' to see how much they feel they have progressed over the intervening period.

Feedback from this event was really positive, so we will be running more sessions like this for all our themes over the coming year.

We are changing – watch for our new look newsletter



In issue 3 of the newsletter, we spoke about the Raising Attainment for All Collaborative – or RAFA. This is an improvement approach focusing on improving educational outcomes for children from P5 – school leaving. RAFA's overall aim is *to make Scotland the best possible place in the world to go to school*. In this way, it picks up the work of the EYC which ends at P4, and gives us the chance to improve outcomes for children of all ages.

Three secondary schools and seven primaries are taking part in RAFA in the first phase of this activity in South Lanarkshire. Because of the clear links across the EYC and RAFA we are proposing a new look to our newsletter starting with our next issue. Rather than being just about early years, we will include all activity across EYC and RAFA in a newsletter about how we use the model for improvement in South Lanarkshire.

In future you will see more examples from education establishments like this one:

- *Woodlands Nursery*: using visual methods to see the impact of our interventions on children's behaviour and supporting the way we work with parents
- *Hallside and Cairns Primary Schools* - increasing attendance at primary school
- *Burnside Primary* – looking at ways of encouraging recreational reading among reluctant pupils
- *Trinity High and Cathkin High*– both looking at supporting different groups of young people to achieve their Highers
- *Uddingston Grammar* - supporting young people who need targeted support to achieve more from their time in education

At this point there are three High Schools and seven Primary Schools involved in RAFA.

	<p>Tony McDaid, Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality) is the lead for RAFA in Education Resource.</p> <p>As well as local support for improvement projects, RAFA is supported by a member of the national RAFA team. Marie-Claire Stallard is the officer aligned to South Lanarkshire.</p>	
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Celebrating your work – hold the date!

If you are working on improvement ideas we would like to help you share this with your colleagues. We will be holding a *Celebrating your work and planning next steps* session on **31 March 2015**, Banqueting Hall, Council Headquarters. This will give you a chance to share your work with others, help each other out with your improvement work, and plan your next steps with support from colleagues. If you are interested, contact Michele or Sandra and hold the date!

Contact details:

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Michele.dowling@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Sandra Hay, Administrative officer, 01698 45 3997, sandra.hay@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

If you need this information in another format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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