

# Strategy in Action Meeting Highlights (09.08.23)

Ewan Dick welcomed everyone to the “Strategy in Action” meeting which this month focused on the strategic priority of **Developing Acute Paediatric Services**.

Ewan explained that over the last year, we have refined our strategy work to ‘make it real’ and have looked for ways to work effectively across Therapies, by finding common methods of working and bringing people together to share work and projects to help sustain and support next steps.

First to present was Lindsay Carr (OT) and Penny Walsh (Physio) with their project “*Don't delay the play*”

Lindsay and Penny explained the aim of the project was to minimise the impact of prolonged hospital admissions on the developmental progress of children aged 0-24 months.

## Child Development: Don't Delay The play

Penny Walsh  
Physiotherapist



Lindsay Carr  
Occupational Therapist

Future plans for the project include continued promotion of the Don't delay the play poster and development of pathway - from neonates and links to community. Lindsay and Penny are also hoping to develop further resources such as education packages and information for the Trust Internet pages - books, videos, song books and signposting other resources.

Next to present was Jemma Bell with her project “*Starting2Move*”. The project is a study of movement in children under 5 years old, moving us towards a fairer future to support population health by reducing avoidable health inequalities.



Currently, resources are held on the ACPC website and awareness is being raised through stakeholders and events.

Next steps for the project are a second stage of evaluation (proof-of-concept) following launch feedback, development of Paediatric Physiotherapy Movement Hub and collaboration with other projects and organizations such as Youth Sport Trust, Activity Alliance, SCOT, Institute for Health Visiting, Royal College for Occupational Therapy, Charities, Early years task forces.

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The next presentation was from Cheryl Gascoigne on “*Sensational Thinking*”. In children with autism, 95% experience different sensory processing differences which impacts on function and behaviour.

With a 400% increase in referrals, The Sensational Thinking Project was created to offer key stakeholders – parents, carers, school staff and practitioners' access to sensory information sessions delivered by trained occupational therapists. The sessions have been designed to give a greater understanding of sensory processing and how to reduce potential impact upon the child's function and participation (occupational performance).

Next steps for this project include looking to make the sessions accessible to more families and practitioners and driving projects such as the sensory garden at the RVI to encourage children's participation in therapeutic horticulture and sensory story time.

**Bobby our Occupational Therapy and Sensational Thinking Mascot**



The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust



Our final presentation was from Rachel McConnell about her project “*Implementing a Developmental Care Programme for Babies in Hospital with Congenital Heart Disease*”.

Due to advances in medical and surgical care, babies with congenital heart disease (CHD) are now surviving into adulthood. It has become apparent however that many experience adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes that effect their quality of life and that of their family. The aim of the project is to provide Specialist support for families -skin to skin pre-surgery, promoting parent and baby bond  
Next steps for the project are to secure additional funding to expanding the team further and to have a development pathway - antenatal care to discharge and education sessions for medical staff.



Following the presentations, Ewan closed the meeting by commenting on how the importance of teamwork was evident within and across the different specialisms and how important it is to encourage more people to develop project ideas so we can embed this in our culture.

To view all the presentations discussed in this meeting, please visit the Strategy in Action section of the Therapy Services internet page.

### And in our next Strategy in Action Meeting.....

The next Therapy Services Strategy in Action Meeting will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September the theme for this meeting will be:

**Adult Community Services and Workforce**

