

"If we are serious about improving the life chances of Norfolk children and improving Social Mobility our key focus has to be improving our children's communication skills. Developing Communication Champions in your settings to deliver bespoke programs and training is the foundation of this vital work."

**Stuart Allen**, Headteacher, Mile Cross Primary,  
Norwich Opportunity Area Partnership Board

"We work with other colleagues across Norwich which is fantastic because it is a collaborative working model. We can air and share great ideas and gain experience from other people. At the end of the day we are providing better outcomes for our children."

**Paula Jones**, Headteacher,  
Edith Cavell Primary School

"The programme has improved my own understanding of the importance of developing good communication skills, given me practical strategies to use in the classroom and improved my confidence supporting colleagues. This is a real opportunity for schools and nurseries to develop their own staff expertise to achieve better outcomes for children."

**Eileen Maceachern**, SENCO and  
Communication Champion



**Norwich**  
Opportunity Area

**The Norwich  
Communication  
Champions Network**



We would be delighted to send you more information about the Communication Champions Network, or organise a visit to a school or nursery that has already signed up so that you can see the impact of training in a real setting and chat to members of the network.

**Please contact:**

Email: [Claire.Sparrow@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:Claire.Sparrow@newanglia.co.uk)  
Call: **01603 510074**  
Visit: [norwichopportunityarea.co.uk](http://norwichopportunityarea.co.uk)

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**Department  
for Education**

**A collaborative universal approach to  
improving early speech and language**

Communication champions are at the heart of long-term transformation in their setting and in Norwich

**"Our vision is to create a system where no child in Norwich is left behind."**

**Dr. Tim Coulson**

Independent Chair of Norwich Opportunity Area partnership board

Addressing speech, language and communication needs in the early years can have a powerfully positive impact on the health and wellbeing, educational progress and employability of children and young people.

The Communication Champions Network is a fully funded programme available to all Early Years Settings in the Norwich Opportunity Area to improve early speech, language and communication.

#### **What is a Communication Champion?**

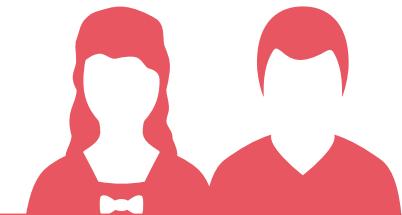
A member of staff within your Early Years setting with a passion for developing children's early speech and language skills. They may be a teacher, nursery assistant, childminder or member of support staff.

Schools and early years settings that sign up to the Communication Champions Network can nominate 2-3 Communication Champions who will receive comprehensive training to develop their own practice, and to become leaders in their own setting, delivering training to all staff to create a universal approach.

**"Becoming a Communication Champion will be your first step in helping our children overcome their barriers to learning and improving their life chances."**

**Stuart Allen**

Chair of the Norwich Opportunity Area  
Early Years working group



**You can choose to do training as a series of twilights, or on Saturdays.**

The first 9 sessions cover topics such as Identification and Assessment of early speech, language and communication needs, the communication environment, and strategies to support children with communication needs and their families. This first round of training is mapped to the enhanced level of the Speech, Language and Communication Framework with an overarching theme of "what does this look like back in my school or setting?"

The next stage of training is a further 10 sessions, developing your skills and knowledge, and supporting you to develop an action plan for your setting. You will also develop your skills as a leader – coaching and supporting colleagues, and encouraging others to change their practice.

#### **The investment in our Communication Champions:**

- Quality training through The Communication Trust
- Training for Communication Champions is free, and staff cover will be paid for by the Opportunity Area
- Paid membership of an appropriate professional organisation
- The chance to achieve a level 2 or level 3 qualification in Early Speech and Language
- The opportunity to complete an MA with an approved provider
- Network meetings and conferences across the Norwich Opportunity Area

#### **Schools also receive:**

- A copy of WellComm – the complete speech and language toolkit
- Train the Trainer resources



**The Communication Trust**  
Every child understood