



Worcestershire Children's Services praised for improving speech and language services

Worcestershire County Council's Joint Commissioning Unit for Children's Services were asked to co-deliver a key note speech at a conference organised by Jean Gross, England's Communication Champion and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, highlighting Worcestershire as an example of best practice.

The conference was held at the Royal National Hotel in London and was attended by John Bercow, Speaker of the House. The conference highlighted the outcomes of the Bercow commissioning pathfinder projects and shared national best practice, supporting commissioners and service managers in shaping services for the future. Emma Jordan, project manager shared the outcomes of Worcestershire's speech, language and communication needs review, of which there have already been very positive outcomes for families in Worcestershire

Jean Gross, England's Communication Champion, said: "As the government's Communication Champion for children, I am constantly looking for examples of good practice in commissioning services for children with speech, language and communication needs. Families and children need commissioning to be 'joined up' across health and education. They need it to be driven by their needs and their views. They need it to be fair, so that wherever the family live, the child will get the help they need as they learn to communicate. The Worcestershire team ticks all those boxes – and more. That's why we have invited them to tell others about their approach, at national conferences. I'm really grateful for the help they have given and commend them for their outstanding work."

The Children's Services Joint Commissioning Unit also spoke at a conference in Leeds in September and has another planned for later in the year at Coventry. For more information about the work of the speech, language and communications needs pathway, please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/slcnpathway or contact Emma Jordan on 01562 752749.



From left to right - Jean Gross, England's Communication Champion, Marie Gascoigne, MGA Consulting, Emma Jordan, Project Manager for the Worcestershire SLCN review and Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.