

Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub

Talking Together: Year 7 Annual Review July 2022

This is an interim report provided by the Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub (BSBIH) for the Better Start Bradford (BSB) and the Better Start Imagine (BSI) project teams. The document provides a summary of project performance during Year 7 of the current contract (01.06.21 to 31.05.22) based on data collected and recorded by the project on SystemOne over that period.

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Context

The Talking Together (TT) project is made up of 1) TT Screening: a universal language screening assessment for 2 year old children, 2) TT intervention: a 6-week home-based intervention aiming to improve children's language skills for those children identified as at risk when screened, 3) TT+: additional sessions provided after the 6-week intervention for children still requiring support. The project is delivered by BHT Early Education and Training who have managed to continue to deliver services despite COVID-19 disruption. BHT were able to go back into homes for full face-to-face delivery in December 2021.

The project is currently awaiting COVID-Recovery funding from Bradford Local Authority which will be used to roll TT out across additional wards in Bradford. BSBH and partners at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) have submitted a grant application to Nuffield Foundation and Education Endowment Foundation evaluate this rollout in a randomised controlled trial. The outcome of the grant application will be shared as soon as it is received.

Data Quality



Data is provided on time, is complete, and of good quality which places the project in **GREEN**.

Recruitment

Screening



82%

% of anticipated figure

Intervention



98%

Targets for recruitment relate to the number of children taking up screening per year, and the number of screened children who attend intervention sessions. It was anticipated that 70% of those invited would take up screening, and 40% of those screened would attend intervention sessions. A total of 897 children were invited for TT screening and 518 took up the offer; 58% of those invited and 82% of the anticipated proportion (**AMBER**).

A total of 279 children were offered intervention; 54% of those who took up the screener and 135% of the anticipated proportion (**GREEN**). A total of 203 screened children attended at least one intervention session; 39% of those screened and 98% of the anticipated proportion (**GREEN**).

Reach

Screening

Asian:
Pakistani



107%

White:
British



72%

White:
Other



59%

Targets for reach relate to the representativeness of children when compared with three main ethnic groups of children living in the Better Start Bradford area, taken from health visiting data (from June 2021 - May 2022).

For screening, the project achieved 107% of the anticipated proportion of Asian/Asian British: Pakistani children (**GREEN**), 72% of White British children (**AMBER**), and 59% of White: Other background (**RED**). This puts the project in **AMBER** overall.

Intervention

Asian:
Pakistani



100%

White:
British



84%

White:
Other



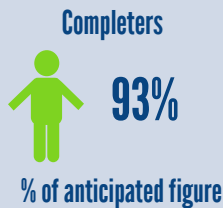
14%

For the intervention, the project achieved 100% of the anticipated proportion of Asian/Asian British: Pakistani children (**GREEN**), 84% of White British children (**AMBER**), and 14% of White: Other background (**RED**). This puts the project in **AMBER** overall.

Data suggests that children of White Other backgrounds are currently the most underrepresented within the project.

% of anticipated figure

Completion



Targets for completion relate to the number of children attending at least 5 of the 6 TT intervention sessions. It was anticipated that 80% of those who take up the offer of TT intervention would go on to complete.

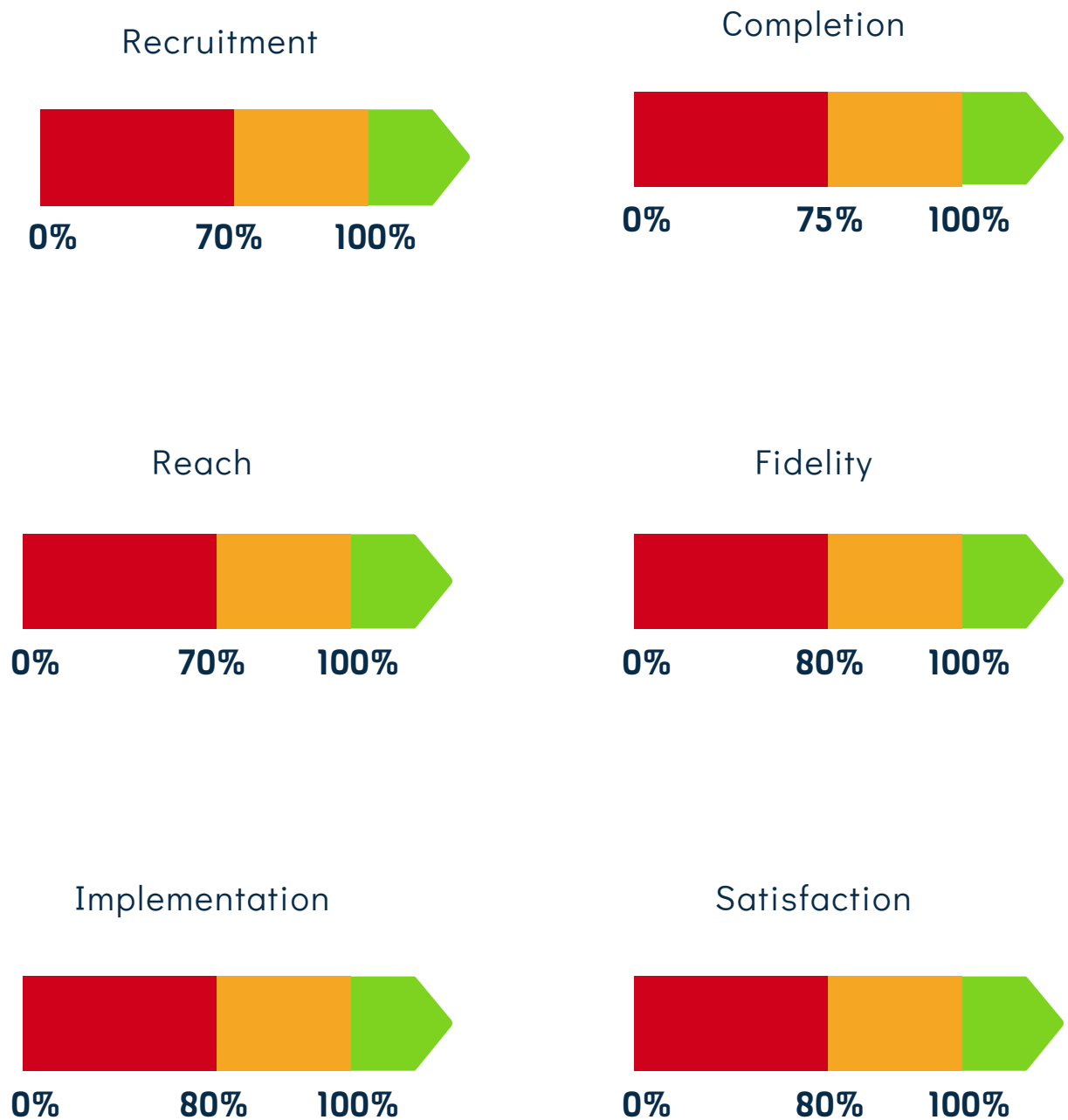
A total of 151 children completed the TT intervention (74% of those who started TT intervention and 93% of the anticipated proportion). This places the project in **GREEN**.

Additional Delivery Indicators

Talking Together has several additional delivery indicators which are summarised below. Please note that these do not follow the RAG criteria set out by the Innovation Hub.

- It was anticipated that 100% of children identified by public health would be invited to TT screening. The data team did not have access to the number of children who were invited for screening via public health referrals. However, data did show that 845 children were referred from health visiting services, and 59% (499 children out of 845) had a screening visit after a referral from health visiting services.
- It was anticipated that 50% of children screened from public health (499 children) would be offered the TT intervention; 48% of children (241 children out of 499) were offered, which puts the project very close to this target.
- It was anticipated that 11% of children who completed the TT intervention would require further support (TT+). Of these:
 - 100% were expected to take up TT+ up
 - 80% of those who took up the TT+ offer were anticipated to complete it
- Of the 151 children completed the TT intervention, 26% were offered TT+ suggesting a higher proportion of children required additional support than anticipated
 - 62% took up TT+ (below target)
 - 39% of those who took up the offer completed TT+ (below target)
- It was anticipated that 510 TT intervention programmes and 40 TT+ programmes would be delivered:
 - Complete programmes can only be extracted from SystemOne by the data team using child numbers. A total of 151 children completed (attended at least 5 of 6 sessions) the TT intervention and 13 children completed TT+.
 - Overall, a total of 1073 TT individual intervention sessions and 129 TT+ individual sessions were run.

Appendix - Progression Criteria Cutoffs



For more information on how progression criteria and associated cut-offs have been developed please see Bryant, et al., 2019 Use of progression criteria to support monitoring and commissioning decision making of public health services: lessons from Better Start Bradford. BMC Public Health