

# Early Years (Speech, Language and Communication) Peer Challenge Programme- Learning from year one

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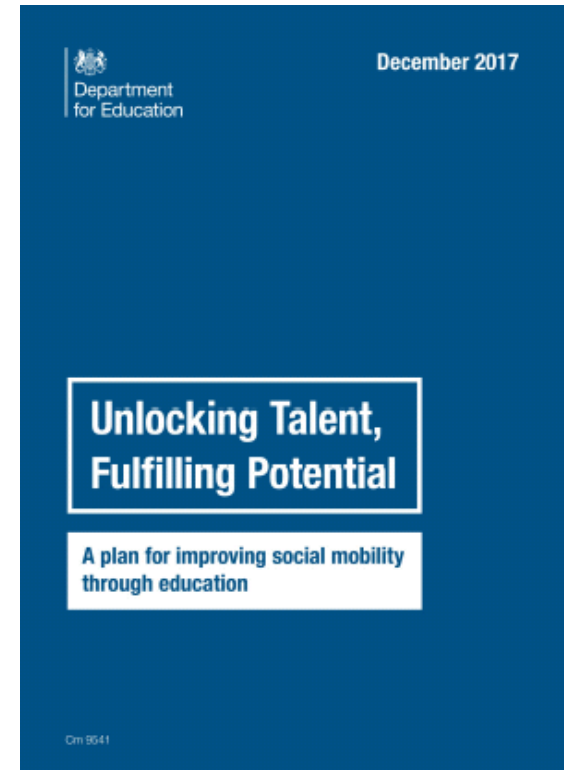
# Background

Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential: a plan for improving social mobility through education. DfE December 2017

## Ambition 1. Close the word gap in the early years.



Children with strong foundations start school in a position to progress, but too many children fall behind early. We need to tackle development gaps, especially key early language and literacy skills.



# Word Gap

By age 3, more disadvantaged children are already 18 months behind their more affluent peers in Early Language Development

Around 2/5 of disadvantaged 5 year olds are not meeting the expected literacy standard for their age

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# Early Years Peer Challenge

- Sector Led Improvement – harnessing skills and experience
  - Outcomes for councils, partners and peers
  - Outcomes for children and families
  - 30 peer challenges, 12 month follow up, 3 Learning events
  - Collaborating with the Early Intervention Foundation
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# What have we done?

- Engaged with the sector to develop the framework
  - Produced guidance and resources
  - Piloted in 3 areas
  - Delivered 7 peer training sessions at Warwick
  - Recruited and trained 120 new peers
  - Identified councils suitable for the challenge
  - Developed the Knowledge Hub
  - Delivered wave 1 challenges
  - Agreed schedule for wave 2 challenges
  - Delivered learning event (today!!)
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# Challenges

| Pilots                        | Completed     | Scheduled          |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Wigan                         | Bristol       | Swindon            |
|                               | Wirral        | North Lincolnshire |
| Cambridgeshire & Peterborough | Hertfordshire | Manchester         |
|                               | Oldham        | Nottingham         |
| Bexley                        | Leeds         | Stockport          |
|                               | Warrington    | Rochdale           |
|                               | Portsmouth    | Lincolnshire       |
|                               | Wolverhampton | Liverpool          |
|                               |               | Enfield            |
|                               |               | Cumbria            |
|                               |               | York               |
|                               |               | Calderdale         |

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## Inputs

## Outputs

## Outcomes-Impact

### Situation

2/5 of disadvantaged 5 year olds not meeting expected literacy standards

At age 3 more disadvantaged children are almost a full 18 months behind their peers

### Priorities

DfE vision to improve social mobility through education

Unlocking talent, fulfilling potential

Ambition 1 'Close the word gap in early years'

Funding (DfE)  
LGA – Children's Programme Team  
Resources  
Partners- Existing peer base  
Peer Challenge process

### Activities

Develop training materials  
Recruit and train 150 new peers  
Develop: Manual Maturity Matrix (EIF)  
Resources EIF/LGA  
Webinar Pre-Challenge Workshops (EIF)

### Who we reach

30 councils and their partners undertake challenges  
Approx 150 peers deliver challenges  
Challenge Managers EIF  
Associates

### Short term Learning

Councils aware of their strengths and areas to consider

Higher profile for EY

Greater knowledge for peers

### Medium term Action

Greater partnership working  
Shared outcome frameworks and data dashboards  
Joint EY Strategies  
Joint Commissioning

### Long term Conditions

Increase in GLD especially in speech & language  
Reduction in the word gap  
Children better equipped to start school

# Mapping

The image shows a screenshot of a Google My Maps interface. The browser address bar at the top displays the URL: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1bZ9TbADZB9KJFqRE1yueXccr0TRwAC&ll=53.4>. The map itself shows the United Kingdom and Ireland, with numerous location pins in various colors (blue, purple, red, yellow) scattered across the landmasses. The left sidebar is titled "Early Years Peer Challe..." and contains the following sections:

- 43 views ★
- SHARE
- Peer Challenges
  - Peterborough
  - Cambridgeshire
  - Warrington
  - Wirral Peninsula
  - ... 5 more
- Peers trained for the EY programme
  - All items
- Planned Challenges
  - All items
- Peers undertaken challenges
  - All items

The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with icons for Internet Explorer, a key icon, Outlook, Word, and PowerPoint. The map data is attributed to ©2019 GeoBasis-DE/BKG (©2009), Google, Inst. Geogr. Nacional, and includes a 50 km scale bar.



# Themes emerging from challenges

- Clarity around school readiness
  - Early Years Strategy
  - Shared outcomes frameworks and data dashboards
  - Use of data to ensure needs led commissioning
  - Co-construction with parents and communities
  - Levels of 2 year old funded childcare take up
  - Integrated 2 year old reviews
  - Robust evaluation of services
  - Partnership working
-

## Comments following the challenges:

**‘The review was a definite catalyst for change.’**

**‘The team quickly ‘got under’ everything and provided a good analysis.’**

**‘This review has allowed the council to have conversations with health and other partners about different ways of working.’**

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# Comments from Peers

‘Enhanced my reading around social mobility, informing my professional development. Articles on the Knowledge hub are very useful. ‘

‘Given me an opportunity to network with other peer reviewers around the country.’

‘This was a great training event and a really good opportunity to reflect on my own organisation and areas for review, improvement and challenge.’

‘Excellent training. Also a fantastic opportunity to work with colleagues from different agencies and authorities.’

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Any  
questions?