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YOU'RE

TALKING

SUPPORTING SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION, BUMP TO 3

**REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**



Health and Social
Care Board

**AS WAS HIS
LANGUAGE
SO WAS HIS LIFE**
Seneca (5BC-65AD)

24 OCTOBER 2013
EVERGLADES HOTEL
DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Speech, language and communication development significantly determines how our children achieve in life. There is clear evidence that mental health, employment, crime and educational outcomes are directly linked to it. This is why parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, early years workers and all who cherish and care for children need to be aware of its importance and to promote this critical capacity in all our children. This is especially true in what has been sometimes referred to as “bump to three” highlighting the importance of early development.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING

CUDDLE ME!

It's the little things that make the greatest differences. Talking to babies, spending family time together outdoors, playing with children, encouraging them to speak and taking time to listen.....these really matter and we can all do them. Of course, Speech and Language Therapists are to be commended for improving the lives of individual children where specialist help is needed but our collective goal must be to prevent poor communication skills in the first place and, to that end, we need to mobilise our entire community.

TALK WITH ME!

Language and culture are forever inextricably linked. How fitting in this City of Culture year that, through this conference and its many preceding Now You're Talking events, we too can leave our legacy. Together let us challenge the injustice that in some areas half our pre-school children have speech and language deficits. We invite professionals and policy-makers and all who share

responsibility for our children to participate in this landmark conference. We will learn from leading experts, share in discussion and be inspired by best practice through an innovative, engaging programme facilitated by television host Marie-Louise Muir.

The Now You're Talking conference has been made possible through the support of a broad range of organisations, departments and sectors all of whom now recognise the central importance of speech, language and communication. This partnership also emphasises the need to work together to a common purpose, that of intervening early to ensure all children reach their full potential.

The Now You're Talking initiative calls on each of us and on all of us to give speech, language and communication

the priority that our children deserve and which is rightfully theirs.

The Now You're Talking conference has the following aims:

To recognise that every child has a right to communicate

To commit to working together to ensure children achieve this right

To raise awareness of the ever more critical impact of speech, language and communication development on children's health, happiness and success

To acknowledge the excellent achievements of parents, carers and professionals in promoting speech, language and communication development

To celebrate the rich gift of language in our personal, family and cultural lives.

 Health and Social
Care Board

24 OCTOBER 2013 EVERGLADES HOTEL DERRY/LONDONDERRY

NOW YOU'RE TALKING · PROGRAMME

9.15- 10.00	Registration and Refreshments	
10.00 - 10.20	Welcome	Fionnuala McAndrew, Director of Social Care and Children, Health and Social Care Board.
10.20 - 11.15	Reflection on Past Achievements and Future Directions	Professor James Law, Head of Speech and Language, Newcastle University.
11.15 - 11.45	Time to Talk	
11.45 - 12.15	Why We Must Read and Write	Carlo Gébler, Author.
12.15 - 12.30	The Babble Bubble	Anna Newell, Artistic Director, Replay Theatre Company.
12.30 - 1.45	LUNCH	
1.45 - 2.30	In the Beginning was the Word	Anita Robinson, Teacher-in-Residence, Verbal Arts Centre.
2.30 - 3.15	Acting Together, Achieving Change	Janet Cooper, Team Leader for Community Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy, Stoke and Manager for 'Stoke Speaks Out'.
3.15 - 4.00	Bright Brand New Day	Gerry Conway, Commissioning Lead, Early Years and Family Support, Health and Social Care Board.
	Close	

NOW YOU'RE TALKING • SPEAKERS



Marie-Louise Muir, Northern Ireland's best known arts broadcaster, returns

to her native city to host our conference. She is synonymous with championing the works of poets and playwrights, authors and actors. Marie-Louise doesn't define herself solely in terms of her job. Motherhood she says, has given her a sense of balance and perspective and it's a role that she relishes.

development. A vocal wonderland, **BABBLE** is performed inside Replay's special Bubble – a magical indoor performance space. **Anna Newell** (Artistic Director) will introduce a short video presentation about **BABBLE** and talk about Replay's portfolio of work.

He recently wrote that 'Children who have normal non-verbal skills but a poor vocabulary at age 5 are one-and-a-half times more likely to have literacy difficulties or have mental health problems at age 34. The same group are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as those who have normally developing language at 5'.



Fionnuala McAndrew is Director of Social Care and Children. Fionnuala initially

trained as a teacher and moved into a social work career commencing in children's residential services. She has worked in a range of settings in local authorities in England and moved to Northern Ireland in 1996 to take up a post in the Southern Health and Social Care Board as Manager of the Registration and Inspection Unit, responsible for the registration of residential and nursing homes.

She was appointed Director of Social Care in the Southern Board in 2004 and became Director of Social Care and Children with the new Health and Social Care Board in April 2009.

Fionnuala McAndrew received an OBE in March 2012 for her services to healthcare in Northern Ireland.



Carlo Gébler was born in Dublin in 1954 to a literary family as he is the son

of Edna O'Brien, one of our foremost novelists. He was brought up in London and his diverse and versatile output includes novels, short stories, nonfiction, plays, children's books and an autobiography. Carlo says his primary ambition 'is to give readers imaginary worlds in which they can lose themselves'.

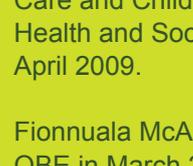
Carlo has worked extensively with young men in prison and is acutely aware of the prevalence of speech, language and communication issues in this group.

His input will take the form of a dialogue with Marie-Louise.



Anita Robinson is an Early Years teacher of many years classroom experience. As

teacher-in-residence at the Verbal Arts Centre she developed and delivered a language enhancement programme in primary schools throughout the Western Education and Library Board. Under the auspices of the Pushkin Trust she works with children and their teachers helping young people 'find a voice' through the creative arts. Anita writes a weekly column in the Irish News, has a regular comment slot on BBC Radio Foyle, contributes frequently to Radio Ulster and keeps in touch with her 'inner child' through story, poetry and creative writing workshops with children and adults.



Professor James Law, our keynote speaker, was a Speech and

Language Therapist for 8 years in east London and now leads Speech and Language at Newcastle University. His particular interest is in increasing the integration of research across disciplines. James has played a leading role in all recent national reviews of Speech, Language and Communication services. He is ideally placed to record the achievements, reflect on the challenges ahead and share his views on the future of Speech, Language and Communication services.



Janet Cooper leads an SLT team in Stoke-on-Trent and manages the 'Stoke Speaks

Out' campaign. Since its onset Stoke Speaks Out has reduced the incidence of speech and language delay from 64% to 39% for three year olds entering nursery. She believes that 'even before birth, mums can start by talking to their bump!'

The 'Now You're Talking' conference challenges each of us to go beyond discussing what needs to change to making change a reality.

Who better to inspire us in that purpose than a leader who has already achieved the improvements to which we each and we all must aspire?



Making adventures for younger audiences since 1988, Replay is Northern Ireland's longest running

theatre company for children and young people. In Spring 2013, Replay developed BABBLE in creative consultation with local nurseries and Mary Elizabeth Hagenson, Speech Therapist, who specialises in early communication