



NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

Title of Motion:	The best start for all Nottinghamshire's children
Date of Council meeting:	19 th March 2026 (carried over from 20 th November 2025 meeting)
Proposer of Motion: (Name and signature)	Councillor Penny Gowland
Seconder of Motion: (Name and signature)	Councillor Helen Faccio

Background/supporting information (maximum 100 words):

The Government has announced the creation of Best Start Family Hubs, providing funding to local authorities to increase the number of 5-year-olds achieving a good level of development. Language skills are a critical part of that - enabling children to socialise, play and learn. Too many children in Nottinghamshire do not develop the required language skills before starting school. Problems with Speech and Language Therapy were highlighted by the Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) in its [report](#) on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in June and their [report](#) on Speech and Language Therapy engagement last year. There is a national shortage of Speech and Language therapists.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

That Council:

- 1) welcome the opening of Family Hubs across Nottinghamshire by this Council.
- 2) calls upon the relevant Cabinet Members to ensure that each Nottinghamshire Family Hub can work with local NHS services to provide regular and direct access to a Speech and Language Specialist.
- 3) calls upon the relevant Cabinet Members to work with local universities to support increased training of staff in this shortage discipline.

Date and time received:
(for completion by Democratic Services)