DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE

1. Title of the practice

Early attention network

2. Organisation responsible for the practice

Xunta de Galicia - Autonomous Community of Galicia

3. Contact person(s)

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4. Summary of the practice

This project was started following the introduction of a Decree of the Regional Government of Galicia (Decree 183/2013). This Decree was launched by three regional government ministries of Galicia: education, health, and social – indicating the ambition to work in a more integrated manner.

It was set-up to act on the awareness that early-intervention is important for improving outcomes for children with developmental disorders, with recognition that integrated approaches are an intrinsic aspect of identifying cases early.

Following the Decree, a working group involving health, education, and social services in Galicia was established to plan methods for improving coordination, in addition to funds being made available.

One of the achievements of the working group was the introduction of a coordination protocol between health, education and social services. This coordination protocol establishes a system where education and social services can refer children who may have a developmental disorder to a paediatrician who would be responsible for decisions relating to the child.

An ICT tool has been developed by social services in Galicia which can be used for sharing information on children with developmental disorders with education and health services (although the ICT systems remain different to that of social services), further promoting collaboration between the services.

Also, a training plan was implemented for professionals in health, education and social services in Galicia over three years. The aim of this training was to enable staff in different services to be more aware of each other's work, to promote methods for coordination between them, and to understand the benefits of early intervention for children with developmental disorders. This training was provided by a training body within the Regional Government of Galicia, involving experts on this topic from elsewhere.

5. National/regional/local context of the practice

The approval by the Regional Government of the Decree183/2013, led to the creation of the Galician network of early attention.

It has promoted the reshaping and creation of new services and professional teams for working specifically with children from zero to six years with developmental disorders in Galicia.

6. Staff involved

Senior leaders within education, health and social services were involved in the working group to define methods for improved coordination.

7. Target group

Children from zero to six years old with developmental disorders.

8. Aims of the practice

Improve early intervention for children with developmental disorders through better coordination between education, health and social services.

9. Issues for social services

Service Integration/ Cooperation across services	X	Service Planning		Contracting	
Technology		Skills development (of the workforce)	X	Quality of services	
Others: _____					

ANALYSIS OF THE PRACTICE

10. Status

Pilot project (ongoing)		Project (ongoing)	X	Implemented practice (restricted areas)	
Pilot project (terminated)		Project (terminated)		Widely spread practice/rolled out	

11. Scope of the practice

Describe the setting of the practice, considering the following criteria:

- *Micro level practice:* practice that involves individuals at local level
- *Meso level practice:* practice that involves organisations or communities
- *Macro level practice:* practice that involves large population groups

Meso: The practice involves the collaboration of multiple services within the region of Galicia.

12. Leadership and management of the practice

Description of the leadership of the practice, considering the following criteria:

- *Collaborative management*: shared between large partnerships, often of central, regional and local representation
- *Organisational management*: by one organisation

- *Professional management*: managed by a single person
- *Shared management*: shared with no defined leadership

Collaborative management: The project is shared between the education, health and social ministries of the Regional Government of Galicia.

13. Engaging stakeholders in the practice

Description of the engagement of stakeholders, considering the following criteria:

- *Individual practice*: individuals have sought practice change
- *Network approach*: one or more organisations develop a network
- *Collaborative approach*: large collaboration with relevant stakeholders

Network approach: Through the establishment of a working group, the different organisations involved have created a network.

14. Involvement of service users and their families

Description of the involvement of service users, considering the following criteria:

- *Team involvement: service users and carers were part of the practice team*
- *Consultative: a consultative body of users was set up for an on-going dialogue and feedback*
- *Involvement in care: person-centred approaches to care/support*

Users associations and professional associations have been consulted, with their contributions included in the new regulation and in the establishment of the coordination protocol.

15. Costs and resources needed for implementation

Description of how the practice is financed, considering the following criteria:

- *Within existing resources:* staff time and other resources are provided 'in-house'
- *Staffing costs:* costs for staff investment
- *Joint/Pooled budgets:* two or more agencies pool budgets to fund services
- *Funded project:* external investment

Existing resources have been reshaped but also reinforced with extra budget, supported by the European Social Fund (€1,300,000 per year).

16. Evaluation approaches

Description of the evaluation method of the practice, considering the following criteria:

- *Multi-method:* use of both a qualitative and a quantitative approach
- *Single method:* qualitative or quantitative approach
- *Audit:* looks at data sources such as existing medical records, and/or other routinely collected service data.
- *Informal:* refers to in-house service evaluation using locally designed tools and/or collecting opportunistic feedback
- *No evaluation*
- *An evaluation is planned*

There is no evaluation method in place yet, but an electronic case-management tool is now being developed in order to facilitate not only case-managing but also evaluation.

17. Measurable effects of the practice and what it has achieved for…

Service users	
Formal care givers	

Informal carers	
Organisations	
Other	

18. <u>Anticipated or 'aspirational'</u> effects of the practice and what it has achieved for…	
This category can include outcomes which are not documented, quantified or properly evaluated. They can include such elements as improved knowledge, quality, workforce, etc.	
Service users	Early-intervention work can improve the outcomes for children with developmental disorders, with more integrated work between the different services promoting this.
Formal care givers	
Informal carers	
Organisations	The perception of professionals is that care for children has been improved through better coordination.
Other	

19. How the practice has changed the way the service is provided (lessons learned)

20. Sustainability of the practice
Description of whether the practice is sustainable, considering the following criteria: *Potential for sustainability:* practice was newly started or is on-going/not yet mainstreamed. How could the practice be sustained (in terms of resources)?   *Organic sustainability:* service users have been empowered to take the practice forward   *Established:* the project has been operational for several years
The ESF funding is available until 2020 (and probably another two years). Afterwards, if no more ESF is available, local funds from the region will continue supporting this practice given there is a political consensus to continue.

21. Transferability of the practice
Description of whether the practice has been transferred, considering the following criteria: *Transferred:* transfer to other regions, countries, service user groups, etc.   *Potential for transferability:* there is interest from the outside; elements of the practice have been taken up and used elsewhere; material for transferability (for ex. training material) has been developed
As many public authorities deal with the same complex education, health and social needs of children with developmental disorders, the methodology of this practice could be transferred to other contexts.