

About The Communication Trust and Platform 3

The Communication Trust

The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 50 not-for-profit organisations. Working together we enable everyone who works with children and young people in England to support their speech, language and communication.

In 2011 The Communication Trust, in collaboration with City and Guilds, developed a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) qualification for people working with children and young people: the Level 3 award Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication. This was in response to the growing body of research evidence which showed that the workforce was poorly equipped to support children's speech, language and communication development and needs.

Platform 3 Pilot 2013-2015

In November 2012, the Trust successfully applied to the Department for Education (DfE) VCS grant scheme to pilot a model of delivering this Level 3 qualification via online learning and assessment.

This responded to the recommendations of the 2012 Nutbrown Review. This report found that despite the strong association between skill and qualification levels of staff and better outcomes for children, there was a lack of access to high quality CPD for the early years workforce. This was attributed to both the costs associated, and difficulty in securing time away from settings.

Platform 3 was piloted in 2013-2015 in partnership with the three Awarding Organisations currently offering the award: CACHE, City & Guilds and Apt Ed. Approved centres were contracted to deliver the award to 230 early years practitioners.

Platform 3 for childminders 2015-2016

Based on the positive findings of the independent evaluation of the original pilot, we were granted further DfE funding from 2015-2016 to tailor the existing delivery mechanisms of the qualification to address the specific needs of childminders.

Having reached the end of the pilot phase, we are delighted to announce that Platform 3 is now available to *all* those who work with *all* children and young people from different sectors across the workforce.