

Not-so-fine motor skills

Completing assessments in the community setting

John Greenall¹

¹Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust

BACKGROUND

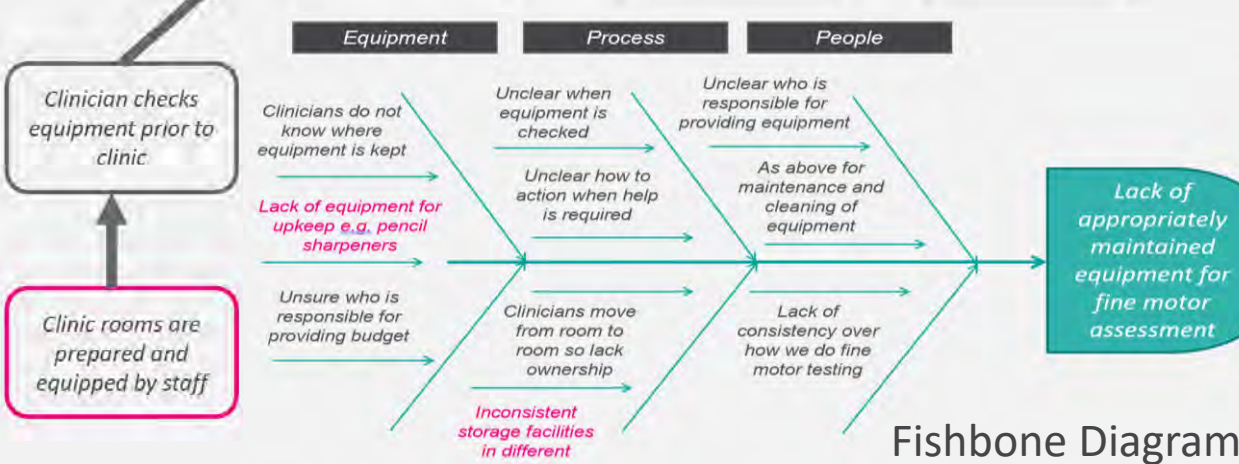
Pencils/crayons in the 8 clinics rooms are often not usable and when replaced the problem recurs within days. Other equipment is rarely available or is stored inconsistently. Clinicians agree; reviewing some letters shows few are mentioning fine motor assessments and I suspect many are being omitted. In addition, to a parent this doesn't look professional

PROBLEM

Missing and shabby equipment in clinic dents parental confidence in our assessments. It reduces the quality of our work. Sometimes we have to skip essential fine motor skills tests

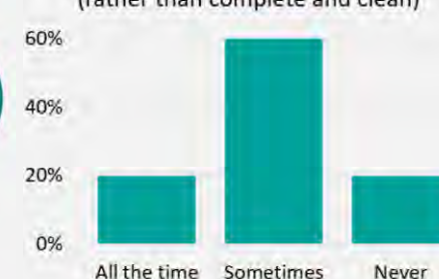
DIAGNOSTICS

Process Map



Bar Chart

In the last week equipment in my room was in a shabby condition (rather than complete and clean)



By August 2023 all children who need to be assessed for fine motor skills are properly assessed by a clinician if it's a priority at this visit.

MEASUREMENT DEFINITION

Evidence equipment required easily available and in good condition
2 = strong; 1 = some; 0 = no
Secondary measure: Evidence tests are performed by clinician in clinic report (<10yrs)
2 = strong; 1 = some; 0 = no

Sampling method and frequency
Clinic rooms reviewed weekly Reports reviewed weekly

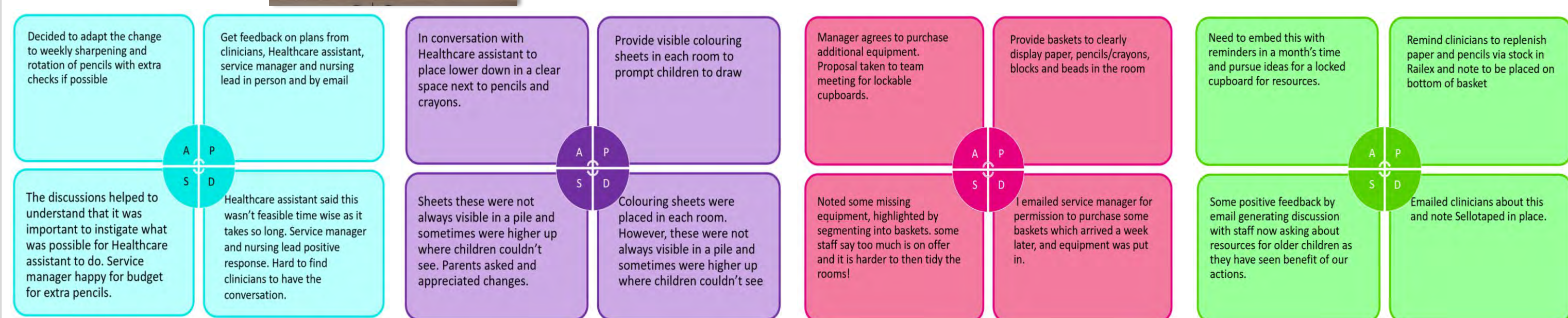
CHANGE IDEAS

	LOGICAL? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	QUICK & EASY? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	EXCITES ME? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	SCORE Logic X Quick X Exciting
Provide colouring sheets to prompt children to ask for pencils	2	2	1	4
Introduce a colouring competition	2	0	2	0
Healthcare assistant assistant to sharpen all pencils on rotation	2	2	1	4
Use baskets to better display the materials	2	1	2	4
Write a check-list on the wall	2	2	0	0

Choose ONE thing to test 1st, ©2019, QIClearn

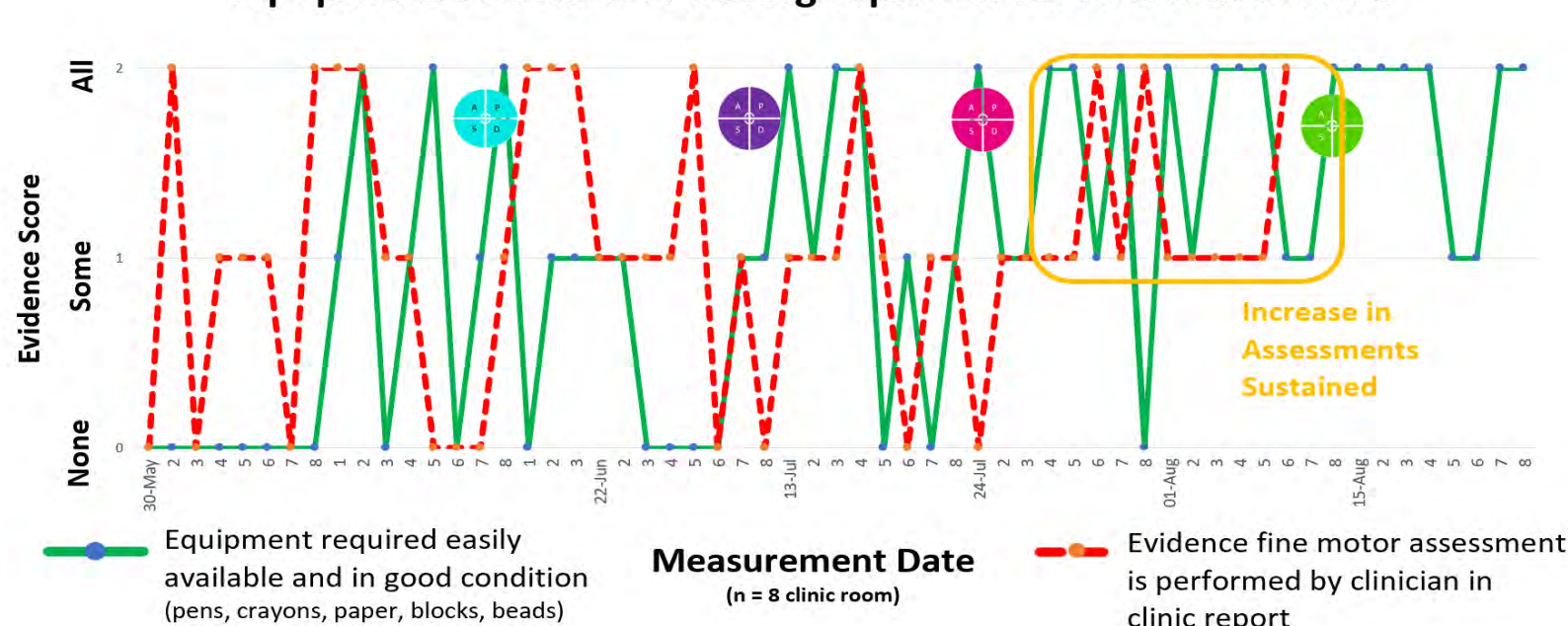


PDSA CYCLES



RUN CHART

Equipment available & testing reported for fine motor skills



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

- The chart shows reasonably consistent improvement in availability and clinician reporting of fine motor skills assessment following implementation of change especially after introducing baskets.
- Implementing change in small steps and engaging the team involved has helped provide good quality readily available equipment for doing fine motor skills assessment.
- Change requires engaging key stakeholders who often see the problem (and solutions) better than I can. This also increases ownership. Interestingly the team has suggested to now expand this to older children.