

# News from Serennu

April 2022  
Volume 10 issue 4



## Congratulations

### BACKGROUND

Parents of children & young people (CYP) with a disability or developmental difficulty (DDD) may experience elevated stress, & are vulnerable to economic difficulties with detrimental impacts on their health, family functioning & wellbeing. Care Coordination (CC) could improve care experiences & meet unmet needs. The impact of CC for CYP with DDD was evaluated. See Figure 1.

### CARE COORDINATION MODEL USED

- Supports vulnerable families with input from 2-3 professionals.
- Single point of contact.
- Attends appointments & multi-disciplinary meetings.
- Checks referrals & missed appointments.
- Provides emotional & practical support (transport, finances, benefits, housing).
- Ends involvement when family able to coordinate own care.

### METHOD

Between May - August 2020, 9 families of CYP who accessed CC & 14 health & social care professionals (out of 38 & 177 approached respectively) based at Serennu, Neath Port Talbot & Carmarthen Children's Centres (S. Wales, UK) completed semi-structured interviews. Interview transcripts were analysed using inductive thematic analysis. Ethical approval granted by Assurance Research Ethics Board.

### RESULTS

- See Figure 2.
- Improvements in families' abilities to navigate, organise & understand care, & increased parental engagement.
- Professionals & families described CC as a source of holistic support.
- Professionals observed fewer missed appointments & eased pressure on their services.
- Limitations: Restricted staff capacity, & the role definition not always understood.

Dr Sarah Myers: Paediatric Neurodisability ST6, Ynhyfrydd Fawr, S. Wales, UK  
Bethan Collins: Research & Development Officer, Sparkle (S. Wales) Ltd., UK  
Dr Sabine Maguire: Cochrane Institute of Primary Care & Public Health, Cardiff University School of Medicine, Cardiff, S. Wales, UK

Correspondence:  
sabinemaguire@gmail.com

## "Care Coordination for children with a disability or developmental difficulty: empowers families & reduces the burden on staff supporting them"

Figure 1: The Aims of the Care Coordination Service

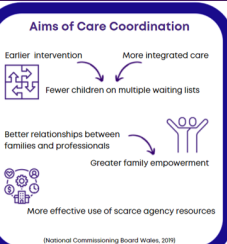


Figure 2: Themes arising from interviews & key quotes



### KEY MESSAGES

- Families of CYP with DDD can experience increased stress & scarce resources.
- Care Coordination (CC) assists families to engage, navigate & organise care for their child.
- Families with CC feel supported & empowered.
- CC reduces the burden on professionals & services.

Sparkle recognise the importance of research and we are continually evaluating services to enable us to understand what works well for families and what could be developed and improved. We are delighted to announce that our research on Care Coordination, has recently won the MacKeith Press Best Poster prize at the British Academy of Childhood Disability Annual Scientific Meeting. Congratulations and well done to Dr Sarah Myers, Sparkle Research and Development Officer Bethan Collins, and Sparkle Chair of Trustees Dr Sabine Maguire, your hard work has paid off. Dr Myers, Bethan and Dr Maguire have very kindly agreed to donate their £250 prize money to the Sparkle Appeal.

<https://www.sparkleappeal.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Care%20Coordination.pdf>



Family Liaison Service would like to warmly invite parents and carers to join us



Friday 8th April  
at Serennu Children's Centre

A chance to relax and chat to other parents and carers. Children welcome

10am – 11.15am or  
11.30am – 12.45pm

As numbers are limited please book a preferred time via  
email: [abb.familyliaisonofficer@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:abb.familyliaisonofficer@wales.nhs.uk) or tel: 01633 748 013

## Hello and Welcome

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new member of staff Jackie James, who has joined us in the role of Snack Bar Supervisor.



With staff and families now returning to Serennu Centre, Sparkle would like to offer continuity of the café service for everyone so it will be open between 10am and 2.30pm, Monday thru Friday. The snack bar has a variety of food and refreshments available, and Jackie is keen to cater to what is required and is happy to introduce new ideas and items onto the menu. If you have any feedback or requests, please let Jackie know.

If you are interested in volunteering in the café or would like to hear about volunteering opportunities, please check the Sparkle website, or contact Carla Hopkins on [Carla.hopkins@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Carla.hopkins@wales.nhs.uk).

If you would like to be kept up to date with activities, events, forums and support groups being held at Serennu and in the local area please email or call: [Family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk) or 01633 748013 to be included on the mailing list.

## Sign of the Month



**RABBIT**

©Signalong

"N" hands (palms forward pointing up) at either side of head, fingers flex forwards and back.

For more signs, information and resources, please see [www.signalong.org.uk](http://www.signalong.org.uk) or talk to your Speech and Language Therapist.

## Swim Volunteers Needed

"Are you confident in the water and passionate about supporting children with disabilities and/or developmental difficulties? We have been advised that we can resume all swimming lessons very soon and are looking for volunteers to help us deliver them!

Swim lessons take place at Serennu on Thursday evenings, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. If you are available to help at any session then please head to our website for more information and to apply: <https://www.sparkleappeal.org/vacancies-and-volunteering>

Please share with anyone who might be able to help us start our swimming lessons again as soon as possible!"



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helping special children shine

**SPARKLE  
SWIM  
VOLUNTEERS**

For more information and to apply, please visit our website

[www.sparkleappeal.org/vacancies-and-volunteering](https://www.sparkleappeal.org/vacancies-and-volunteering)



Our Little Stars stay and play group, recently went on a trip to Fusion Play Centre which is located in Risca. They all had a wonderful time and we would like to thank Fusion Play for being so welcoming!

Sparkle 'Little Stars' sessions are for children aged 0-4 and run each Thursday morning at Serennu, 10.30am-12pm. It is a fun and friendly session which offers a programme of activities to meet the needs of the children. For more information please contact [family.liaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:family.liaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk) or **01633 748013**



On 21st March, Serennu Children's Centre staff recognised and celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. Staff at Serennu wore odd and brightly coloured socks to support the #LotsOfSocks campaign to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.

Face to Face parent support groups have now resumed their monthly meetings at Serennu. T:21 Dragons meet on the first Tuesday each month and you would be very welcome to join them. The group is co-ordinated by Frances and she is happy to chat with you if you have any questions about the group, her contact details are shown on the T:21 Dragons poster.

Serennu Family Liaison Officers also have information available for families, please contact them on **01633 748013** or [family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk)



## T:21 Dragons



Are you a parent of a child with Down syndrome? Would you like to meet other parents in your area?

Come along to Serennu Children's Centre on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12.30pm, for a cuppa and a chat.

Serennu Children's Centre  
Cwrt Camlas, High Cross  
Newport NP10 9LY

If you would like more information, please contact Frances on [frances2708@gmail.com](mailto:frances2708@gmail.com)



Search  
**T21 Dragons'**  
on Facebook

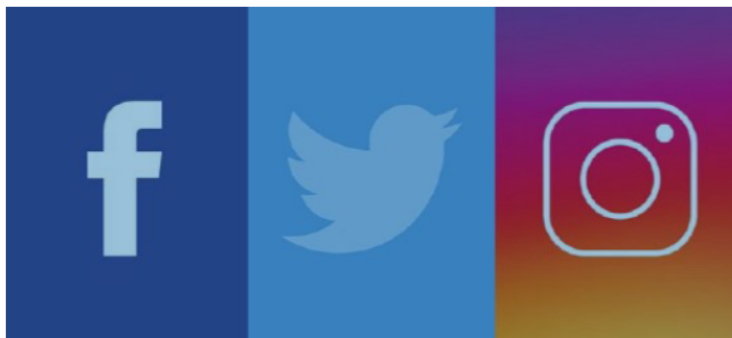


## Sparkle Social Media

**Facebook** @sparkleAppeal

**Twitter** @sparkleappeal

**Instagram** @sparkleappealofficial



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Aneurin Bevan  
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