

Reducing Health Inequalities in Audiology Care for Individuals with Learning Disabilities at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

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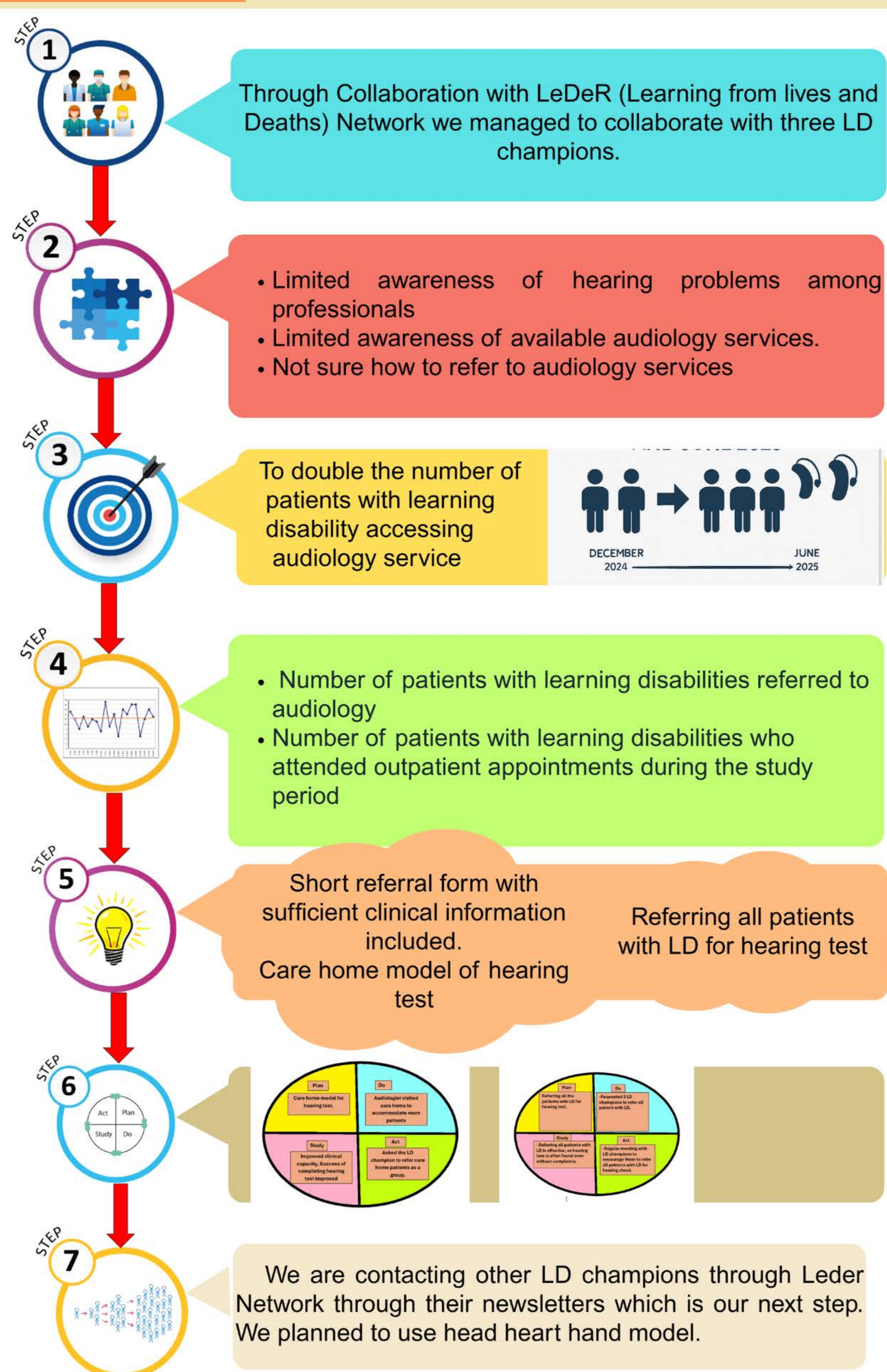
INTRODUCTION

Individuals with learning disabilities have a high prevalence of hearing loss. Though the prevalence is high, the number of individuals assessed with learning disabilities who are referred to services is relatively low. In our internal audit, the number of individuals with learning disabilities referred to audiology services between June and November 2024 was 9.

OBJECTIVE

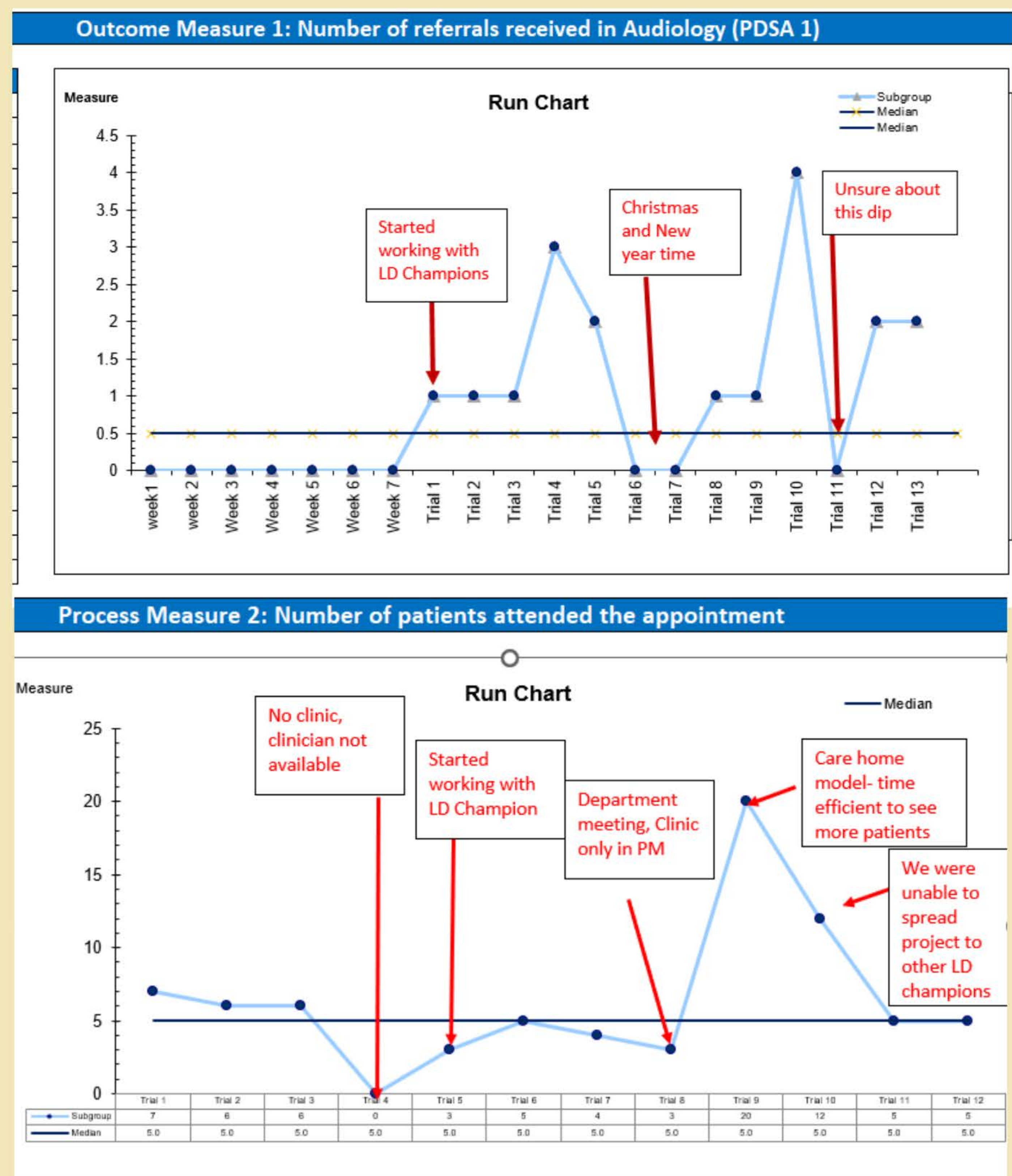
To make the audiology service more accessible for individuals with learning disabilities.

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS

Since we collaborated with LD champions . From December 2024 to June 2025, these figures rose to 36 referrals (a 300% increase), 49 outpatient appointments (113% increase).



ANALYSIS

We managed to improve the referral rate and the number of patients with learning disabilities accessing audiology services when we collaborated with LD Champions. However, it was difficult to engage other LD Champions to maintain the referral rate and service accessibility.

CONCLUSION

Engaging LD Champions is key to improving audiology service accessibility for individuals with learning disabilities.

Working collaboratively with LEDER network helped us to connect to LD champions

RELATED LITERATURE

-Hearing problems in the learning disability population: is anybody listening?, Journal: British Journal of Learning Disabilities, : 2014, ISSN: 1468-3156
<https://www.somersetintelligence.-Org.uk/ld.html>.