

# Quality4You 2025

## SENSATIONAL SPACES

Enhancing the environment in Struell Lodge Residential Service to create an appropriate sensory informed home environment and improve quality of life with more opportunity for meaningful occupation.

**Ursula McCloskey & Helen Law**  
Advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapists



**Background :** Struell Lodge is a Trust owned regulated residential facility and home to 6 adult residents who all have a learning disability.

In the longer term, the built environment is to be reconfigured in order to maximise use of the space and improve the building and gardens overall. As part of this plan the occupational therapists in the Intensive Support Service who have extensive understanding of building, planning and design, and with additional expertise of the impact of sensory integration and modulation differences with this client group, agreed to implement a targeted programme. This would include audit of the spaces, training of staff, engagement with families and creation of amazing *sensational spaces* through the building.

**Primary Aim:** To increase the number of residents who engage in sensory based activity in the new zones in Struell Lodge to 100% by December 2025

We aim to review and enhance the environment in Struell Lodge, a Trust residential facility in Downpatrick. The residents have a learning disability and require significant support due to the complexity of their needs. The project will seek to understand the sensory preferences of the residents and adapt the environment to address these. Sensory integration and processing and other relevant principles such as positive behaviour support and biophysics that can effect changes to the environment. The intention will be to improve quality of life for those

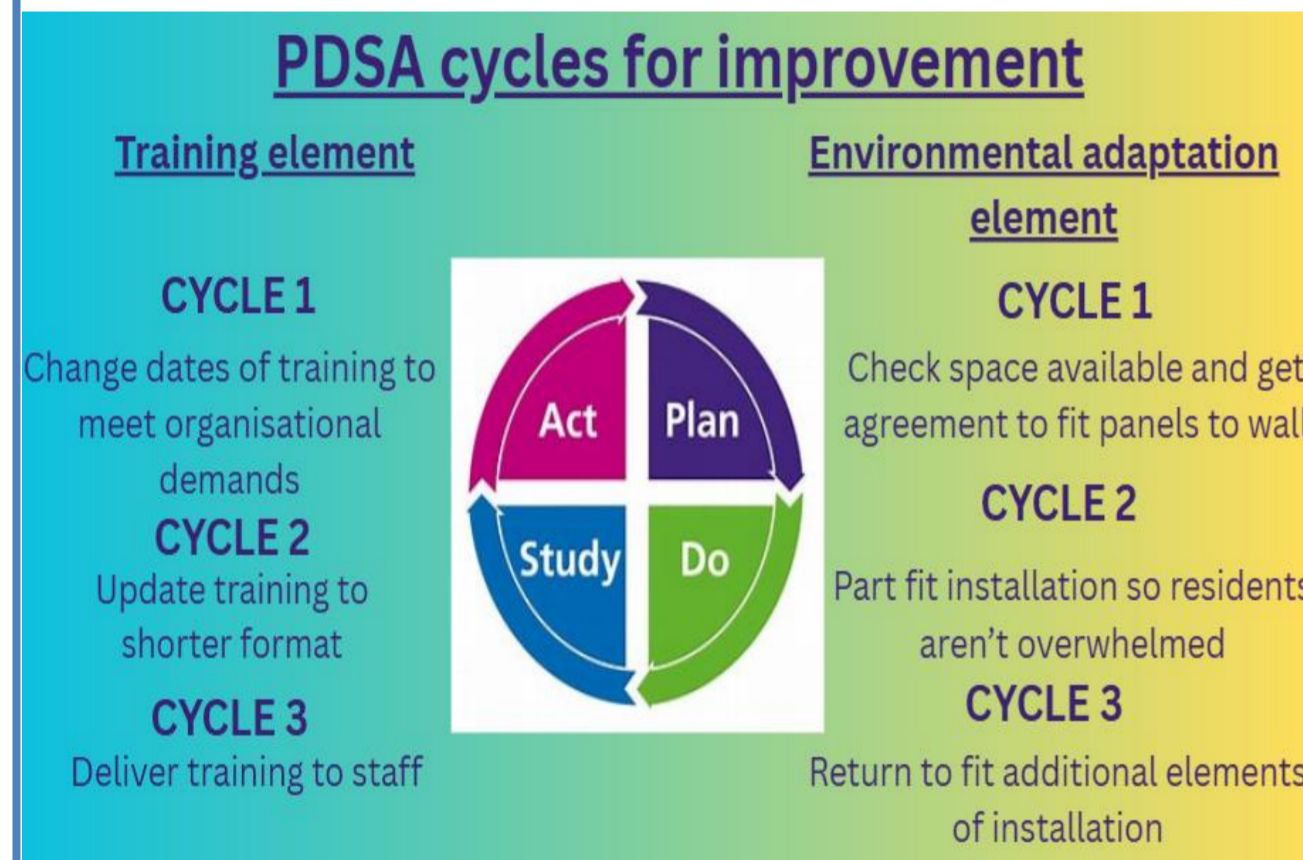
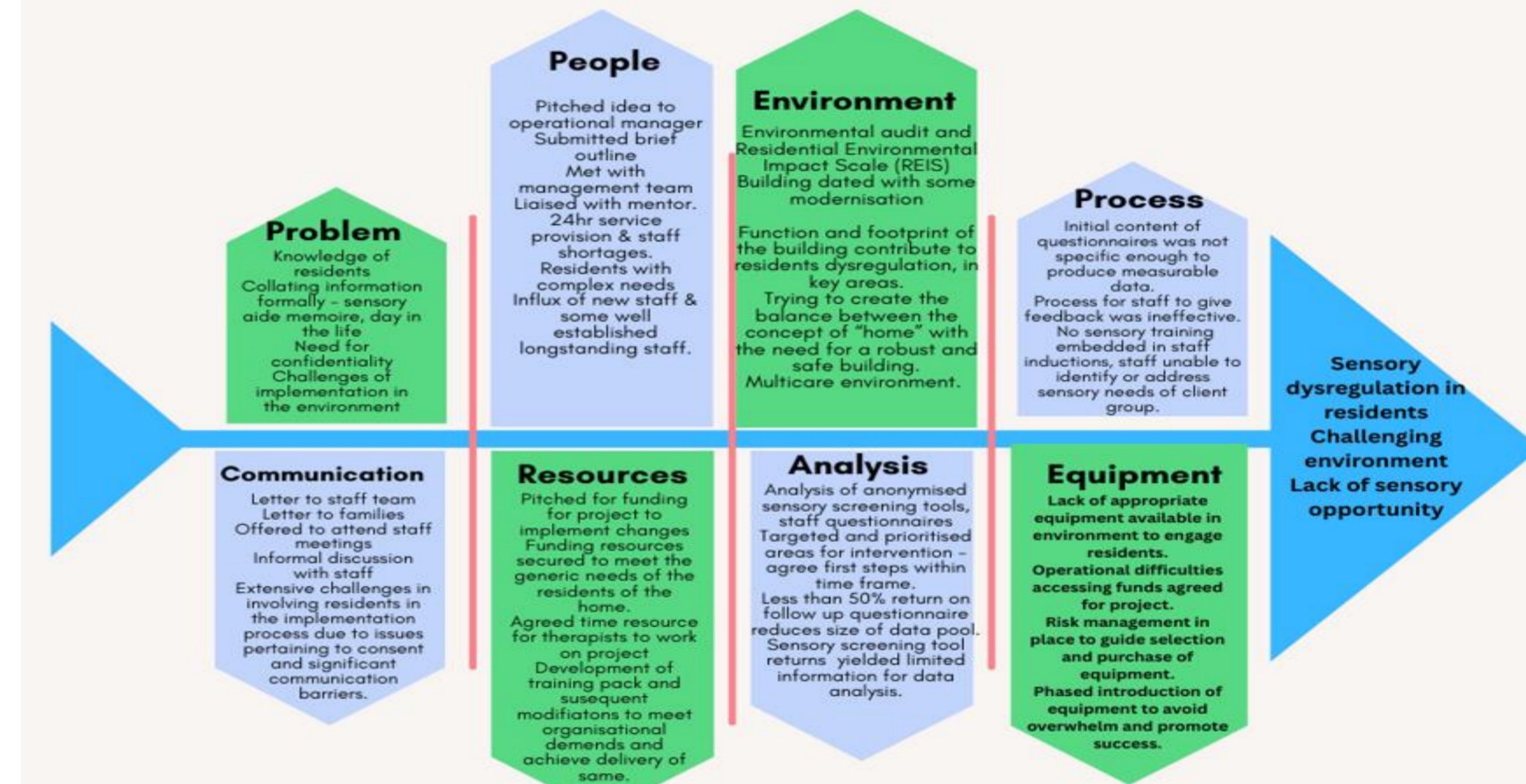
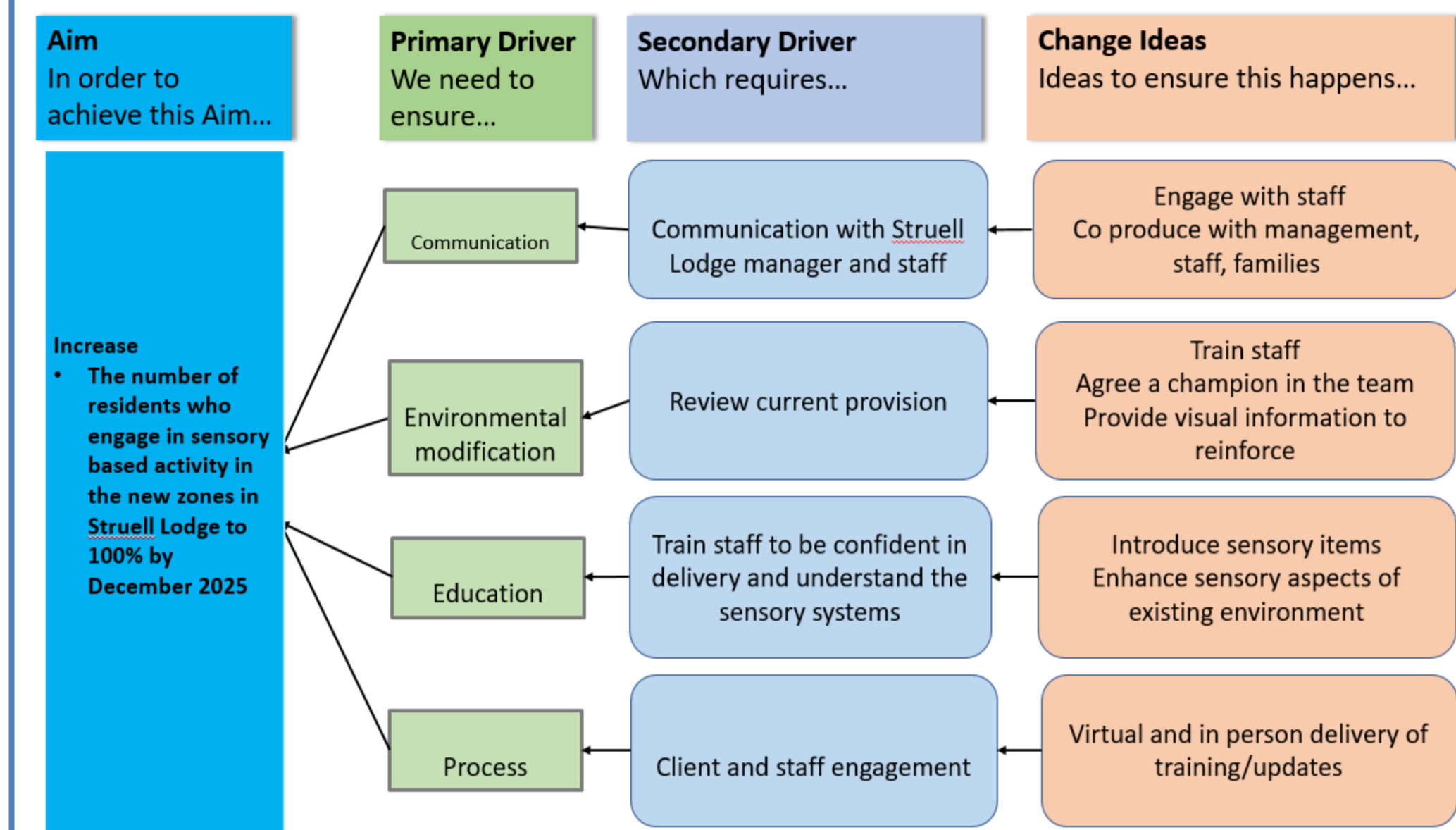
living in Struell Lodge and to improve opportunities for engagement in meaningful occupations by offering an enhanced and appropriate sensory informed home environment. In tandem with this, the occupational therapists will improve awareness of sensory differences by training the staff group, and embed this in the units culture by working in a co-production approach with service users and carers.

We also aim to increase:

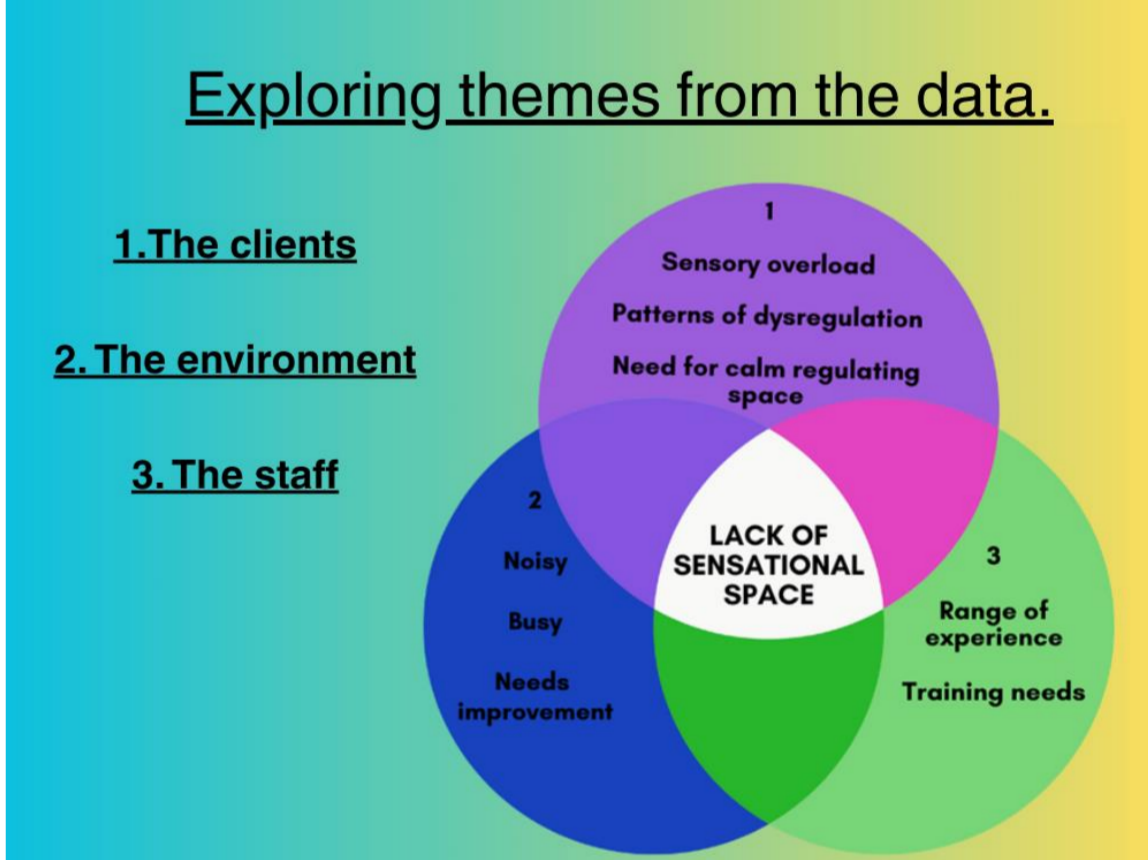
- The number of opportunities for sensory engagement in the identified zones in Struell Lodge residential unit Downpatrick
- The number of staff who have been trained in sensory awareness to 50% by December 2025



### Improvement Methodology & Measures used

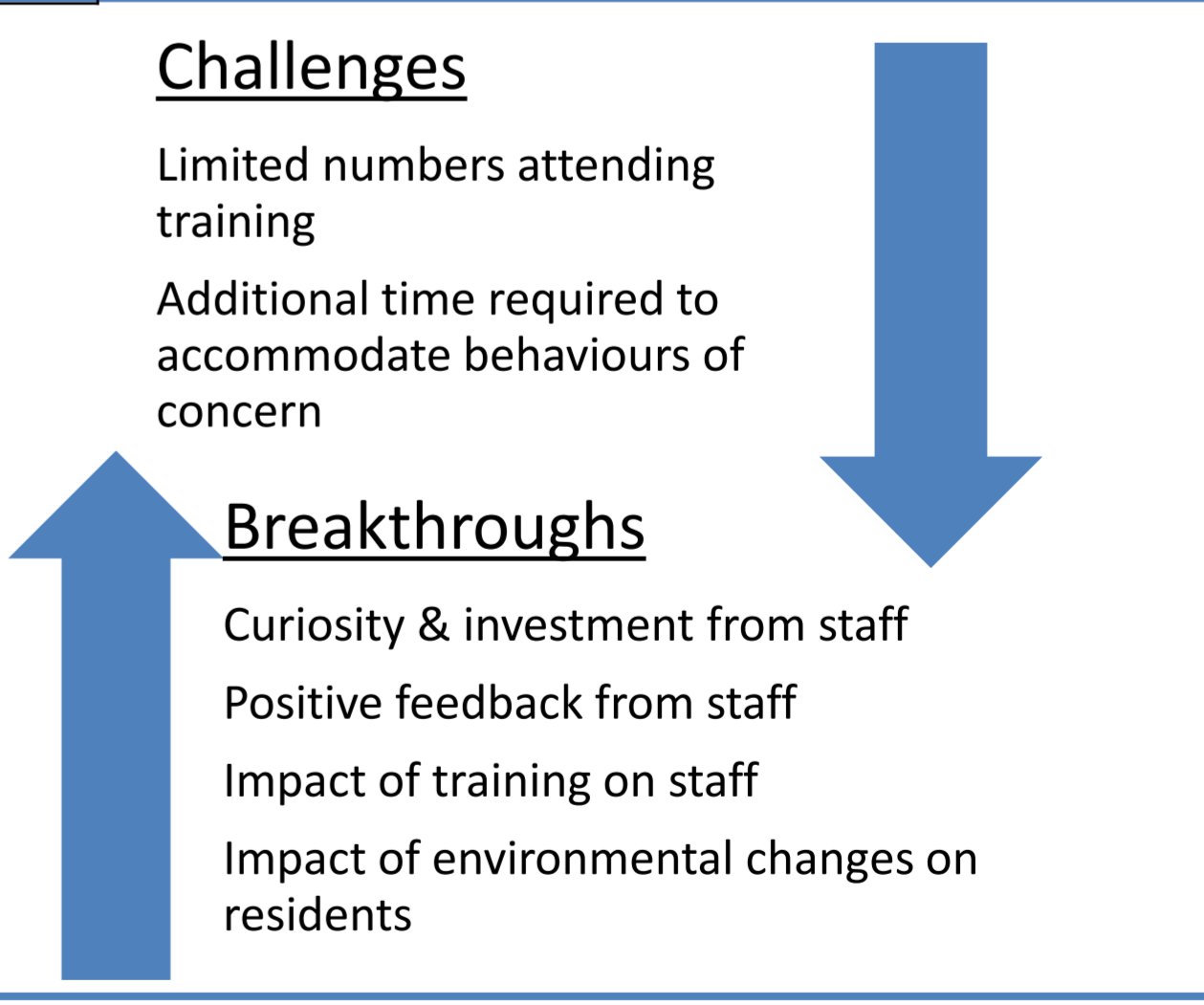


Measure	Operational Definition
Residential Environmental Impact Survey REIS (Outcome)	Specialist OT evaluation of environment. Semi-structured assessment designed to examine the impact of residential facilities on its residents.
Staff questionnaire (start and end) (Process & Balancing)	Hear staff voices. Co production concept. Brief tool to capture snapshot of staff understanding and training needs in relation to sensory issues.
Sensory Aide Memoire A day in the life questionnaire (Process)	Hear client experience. Theme sensory issues of residents. Anonymous information in relation to sensory integration and modulation differences experienced.
Sensory spaces audit (Outcome & Process)	In depth OT assessment of identified zones for changes. Allow OT to look closely at the problem area as identified by staff
Family member and staff evaluation of outcomes (Outcome & Balancing)	Gather written and verbal feedback. To gather rich qualitative information from staff and family to rate the effectiveness of the change and plan future interventions.



### Results

- 100% of the staff trained in sensory processing feel that the new knowledge gained will help to support them in their role.
- 100% of staff trained agreed that they now have a better understanding of the impact that sensory differences can have on the people that they support in Struell Lodge.
- 100% of staff feel that the training has changed their attitudes or opinion in relation to how they view behaviours that are considered challenging.
- 100% of residents had sensory screening assessments completed that will better inform their care plans.
- 100% of the areas that were targeted for intervention had all information that was not person centred and relevant to the residents removed.



**BRILLIANT! HE REALLY ENJOYED INTERACTING WITH THE LIGHTS**  
I am now aware of different strategies, triggers and different sensory types.

**THE NEW COLOURS AND PICTURES REALLY TRANSFORM THE SPACE**  
We want to see if he will engage with the herb plants. Maybe we can get some indoor gardening happening.

Great course, very informative and great information on strategies

**I CAN HEAR BIRDS I LOVE THAT!**

**WE NOTICED THE CHANGES STRAIGHT AWAY**  
**CAN WE HAVE MORE STAINED GLASS?**  
**THE HALLWAY SMELLS LOVELY**

The training has been really helpful. It helps you think/work out what may be troubling someone or help explain behaviours

Better understanding from a professional perspective and understanding about the amygdala.



- ### Next steps - Scale & Spread
- #### Next Steps In Struell Lodge
- Roll out training programme
  - Identify our champion
  - Install additional elements in the *sensational spaces*
  - Begin to plan for development of 2 more sensational spaces
  - Review - PDSA cycle
- #### Next steps Trustwide
- Identify other Trust facilities to replicate the *Sensational Spaces* project - Trust residential facilities, day centres, nursing homes.
  - Standardise and embed training programme, questionnaires etc for use across services and programmes of care - LD, CYP, COE, MH
  - Raise profile of project in line with Trust Values