

PACT-G

Paediatric Autism Communication Trial – Generalised (Randomised Controlled Trial)

Chief Investigator: Professor Jonathan Green (UoM) and colleagues



Trial Background

- ❖ **PACT-G** is a research study looking at whether PACT-G therapy, a social communication therapy for children with autism, helps improve autism symptoms.
- ❖ Builds on the original PACT study which was conducted across cities in the UK with children aged 2-5 years
- ❖ **Parents responded really well** to this intervention which led to **significant improvement in their child's social communication** in return.
- ❖ **However**, there was reduced improvement when the child communicated with another adult outside the family
- ❖ **Communication improvements** did not seem to **generalise** across contexts – for example, from home to schools settings.



PACT-G Sample

- ❖ Aim to recruit **244 families**
- ❖ **Children 2-11 years** meeting criteria for core autism on gold standard measures
- ❖ Working with **families and schools in three UK centres**: Manchester, London & North East England via clinical specialists, education professionals and consented databases.

Aims



- ❖ **By adapting PACT to PACT-G** and working in homes and schools, we hope that improvements in communication will be generalised to other settings **SO in schools and homes this time.**



What Is PACT-G Therapy?

It builds on PACT therapy where caregivers were coached, using video feedback, to interact with their child using strategies that helped communication development with the child.

PACT-G retains this but **adds new features** to test specific ways to **increase the transfer of child communication gains** in to everyday home and education contexts.

The **therapy begins at home with a parent** and **techniques are integrated into daily routines and play to assist generalisation of new skills development in the home settings.** Also the range of adults involved in training is **widened to include education staff** in school settings.

Across three settings (clinic, home and education) we will assess the child's interaction with parent or teacher, plus an objectively rated measure of autism symptoms. **From this we will capture information of the process by which a child generalises skills across contexts and whether PACT-G improves this generalisation.**

If you decide to take part in the study you will be in the study for a period of **one year.**

If your child gets PACT-G therapy, there will be:

- ❖ **Assessments at the start, 7 months and 12 months**
- ❖ **12 sessions with a parent**
- ❖ **12 sessions with someone from nursery or school**
- ❖ **Monthly meetings** between parents and nursery/ school staff.

- You will be asked to make **video recordings of you and your child playing.** The therapist will watch the recordings with you and think about **how to help your child communicate more.**

- For other sessions, the **therapist will ask you to send videos of you playing with your child** and then you will talk about these **over Skype** or telephone.

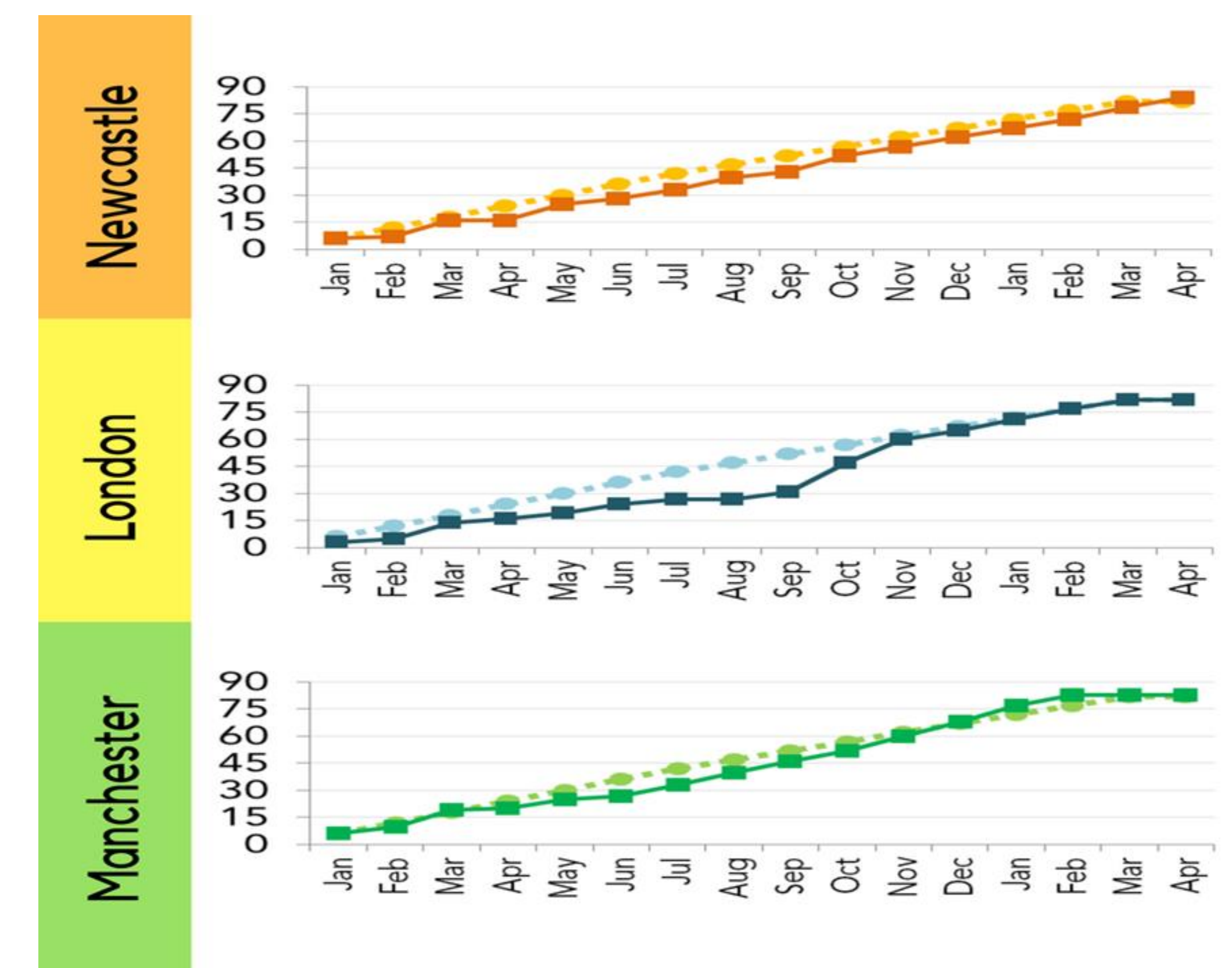
- **Between session you will be asked to practice every day with your child.**

- **The therapist will do the same sessions with someone in your child's nursery or school.**

May 2018 – How Are We Doing?

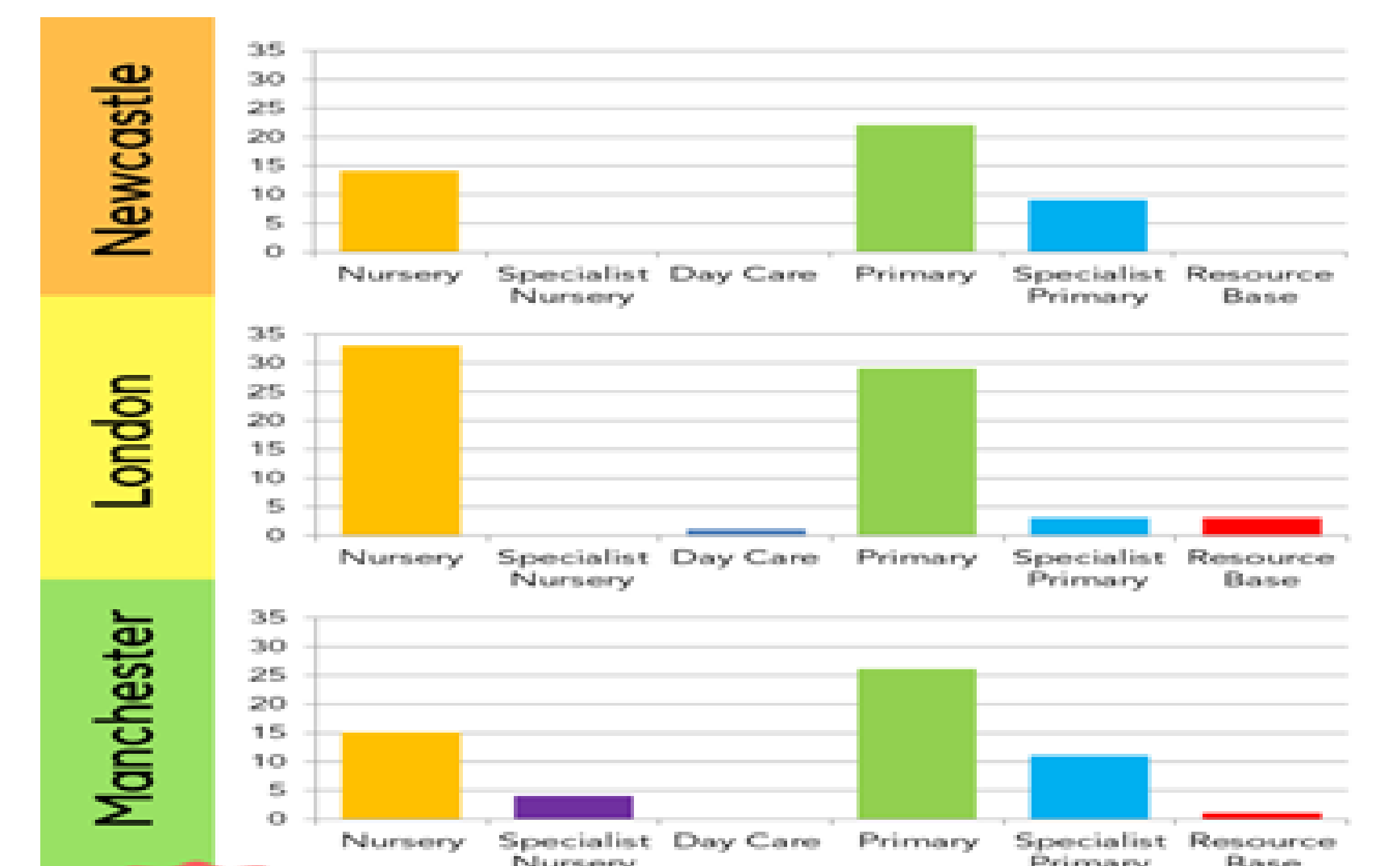
RECRUITMENT: We have recruited **249 families** in to the study.

- **82 London, 83 Manchester and 84 Newcastle**



THERAPY: We have **43 families** that have completed therapy and **79 families randomised to therapy.**

RESEARCH: School engagement has been very positive and we have **171 partner schools participating across the UK.**



171 partner schools across the UK