

Patient Organisations Can Play a Major Role in Supporting Implementation of Real Change

- Implementing a Rehabilitation Program for Children with Hearing Loss in Danish Hospitals

Project aim: To implement Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT), a parent-led programme for children with hearing loss, at three Danish Hospitals, and to identify successful drivers of the implementation process.

Background: The patient organisation Decibel's research results (2013-2017) convinced the Danish Government to implement a pilot AVT-programme in 2017.

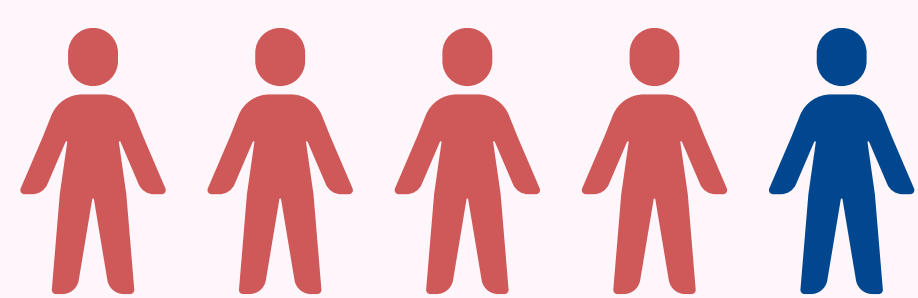
The programme provides AVT to 0-5 year old children with moderate to severe hearing loss, and their parents, for a three-year period.

The Danish Ministry of Health assigned the task of implementation support to Decibel. That included quality assurance, data analysis, knowledge transfer and service alignment between the hospitals. Audiologists / AV-therapists implemented the AVT-programme at their audiological clinics and provided AVT to the families.



Result 1: Implementation effect

- Language development**
More than 4 out of 5 children (84%) develop age appropriate language after 3 years of AVT (N=201)



- Parent satisfaction**
93% of the parents are satisfied or more than satisfied with the programme



- AVT in every region in DK**
Currently, two more hospitals are implementing AVT

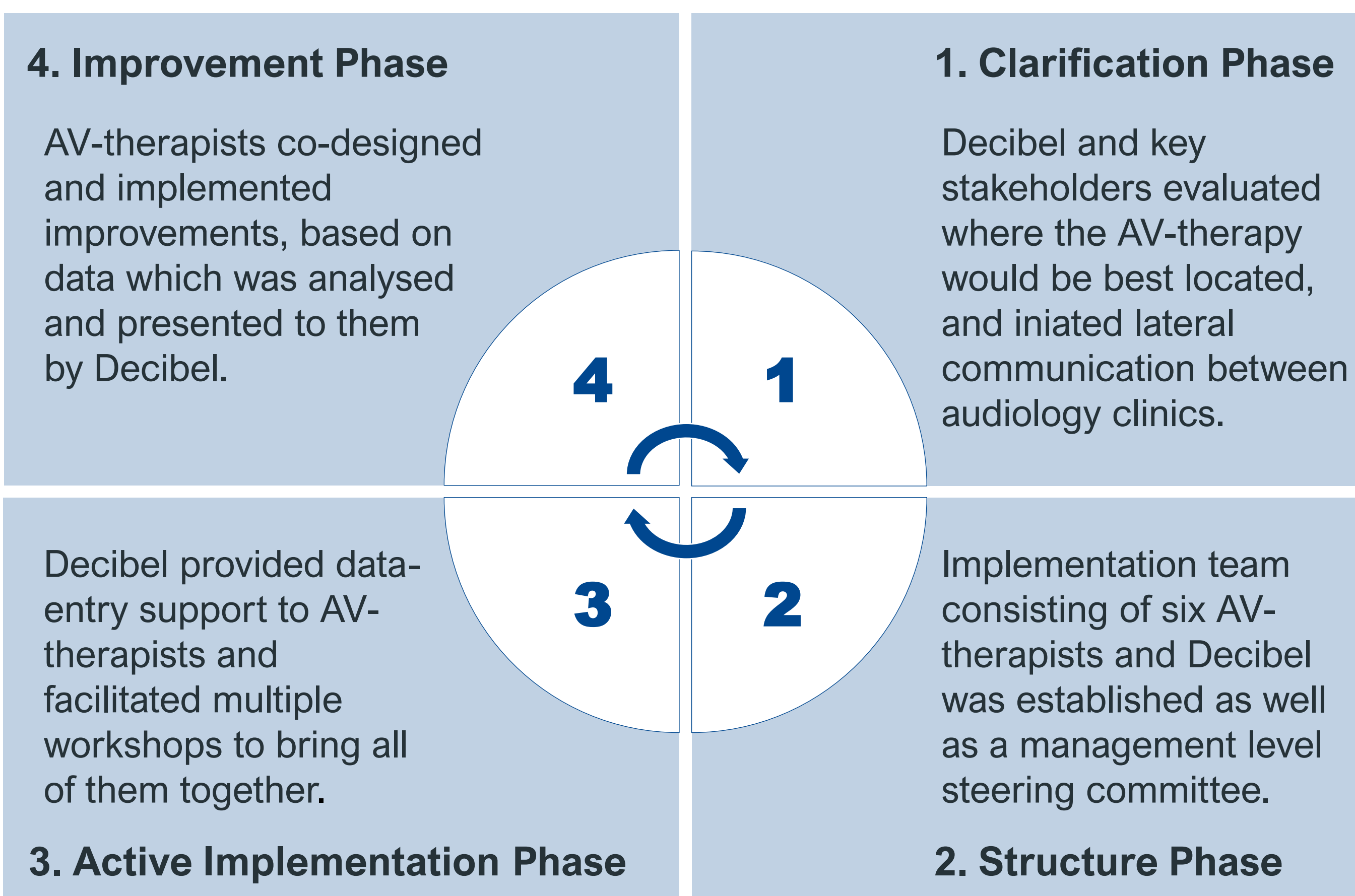
Result 2: Implementation drivers

- Parents**
Strong parental involvement and advocacy
- Practitioners**
Highly motivated practitioners building the capacity of their clinics
- Improvements based on data**
User-centered, data-driven improvements derived from continuous documentation
- Implementation support**
A strong organizational set-up and buy-in from senior management
- Knowledge transfer**
Targeted dissemination of effectiveness to stakeholders and public policymakers throughout the project



Method: Quality Implementation Framework

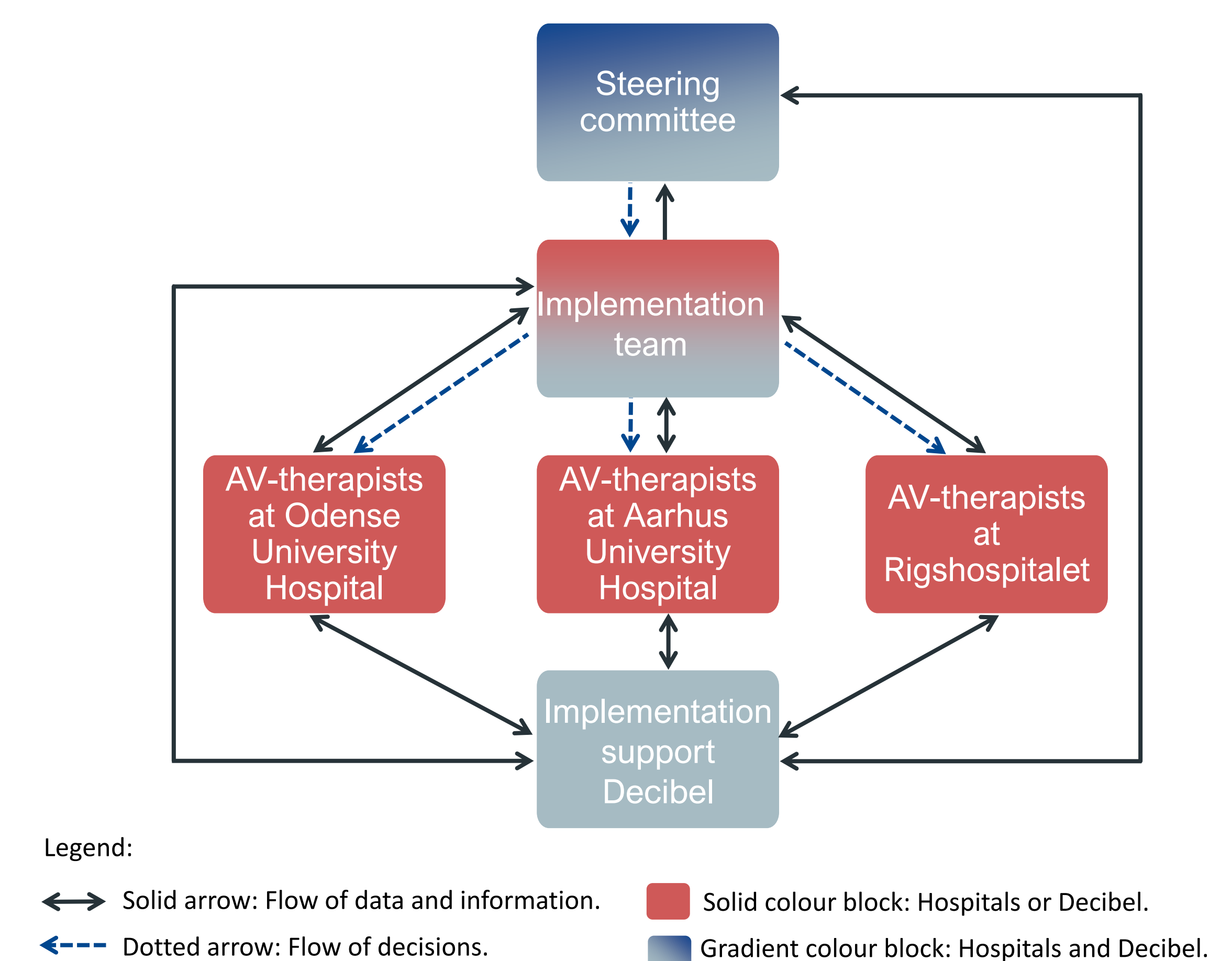
Examples of implementation support by Decibel



(Høgh, H. 2017. QIF- Quality Implementation Framework. Implementering med kvalitet baseret på international implementeringsforskning. Metodecentret.)

Organisational structure

A classical structure within a hospital setting, but with the addition of a patient organisation supporting the implementation



Authors: Ingibjörg Sigtryggisdóttir (1), MSc. in Service Systems Design, Maria Kinimond Meier (1), MSc. in Public Health, Christina Schiøth (1), MSc. in Public Health, Maria Baltzer Gormsen (2), MA. in Audiopediatrics and LSLC Cert. AVT®, Laila Fogtmann Jensen (2), MA. in Audiopediatrics, Camilla Bennick Slynge (3), MA. in Audiopediatrics and LSLC Cert. AVT®, Lena Nissen (3), MA. in Audiopediatrics and LSLC Cert. AVT®. **Affiliation:** (1) Decibel – The Patient Organisation for Children and Adolescents with Hearing Loss. (2) Odense University Hospital, Audiology Department. (3) Aarhus University Hospital, Audiology Clinic. **Corresponding author:** Ingibjörg Sigtryggisdóttir, decibel@decibel.dk

Scan QR code for information in English:



- Video about the AVT-programme
- Summary of the evaluation report
- Brochure addressed to parents
- Information about Decibel

We would like to thank all AV-therapists for the successful implementation of the AVT-programme, and all the parents who contributed by their active involvement in the data collection.

