

Children's Hearing Services Working Group Meeting 17th October 2018

Present:

Sarah Trkulja (ST - NGH audiology and Chair), Jenny Barker (JB - SALT), Martin Thacker (MT - Regional Director NDCS), Gary Webster (GW - Educational audiologist, NCC), Reena Patel (RP - KGH, audiology), Dr Tracey Davis (TD - Consultant Paediatrician, NGH), Kathy Forsdyke (KF -NCC, Local Offer), Anne Wakeling (AW–Head of specialist support services, NCC), Jennie Higson (JH - Deafconnect), Kate Dixon (KD - Ear Foundation)

Apologies

Anne McGrath (AMG -Secretary), Rosemary Murphy (RM – NCC), Sophie McEwan (SMcE –Parent rep), Dr Bob Finch (BF - Consultant Paediatrician, Kettering)

Minutes from the Last meeting

These had been shared prior to the meeting and it was noted that they were from the January meeting as the May meeting had been cancelled.

Dr Davies reported that there were amendments still to be corrected that had been sent to Anne Marie. This means these minutes still cannot be published on the Local Offer. No other amendments were requested at the meeting.

1. CHSWG Meeting action plan

The action plan was reviewed and discussed. (See the end of the minutes for the revised version)

- a. Sarah to chase up with Doctor Finch to agree on a suitable sentence highlighting that medical services work closely with audiology teams contacts and information for families
- b. Sarah will send completed paperwork to KF (local offer) with a note of the web links to be added in.
- c. Jo Bradley is the **Disabled Childrens Team Service Manager** AW will ask her to identify someone from the team to link into the group.
- d. **College contacts**
Gary W provided names of contacts for colleges, noting that these contacts were the people that he had met with.
 - Clare Waggitt – Moulton College
 - Rhiannon Hancock – Northampton College
 - Rachel Mould – Tresham

The colleges all provide staff to support students and have Learning Support teams that should be able to advise partners about individual student support needs.

- e. **Transitions** It was agreed to include transitions in the agenda at future meetings especially primary to secondary and those young people leaving school post 16 and not in college. Agreed to check if the appropriate BSL level is recognised as an English equivalent.
- f. **Annual report** – Martin and Dr Davies had submitted their reports to contribute to the annual reports.
- g. **Complaints procedures** – need to check that this information has been sent to families by AM. The NCC details can all be found on the LA website.
- h. **Teacher allocations** – a discussion took place about whether it is legitimate to share pupil information from the LA to the Health Service. AW will contact the Data Protection Manager at NCC and advice, GW has a spreadsheet extract of the data held by the LA that may be available if approved. It was noted that this is for all students in the county and not by health authority.
Sarah will share the “consent to share” with Reena and recommended that it is kept on the patient medical records.
There are clinical liaison meetings with education and it was agreed to check that this information sharing is for the legitimate purpose. Need to ensure that there is a data sharing agreement.
- i. **Local Offer**
Some updates to the Local Offer have been received, but the TOR and regular minutes are still to be published when approved. AM/KF
Leaflets have been issued to the different clinics and are being shared with parents.
- j. **Social Care referrals**
The issues reported were raised with the LA web team and improvements were made. Dr Davies reported she had made successful referrals into social care.
- k. **Deaf children educated at home**
AW reported that there are rising numbers of children being EHE locally and nationally. The website guidance states that
The local authority must satisfy itself that parents are fulfilling their educational duties to their child and if evidence of this isn't provided, the LA will make informal enquiries before considering the need for further action”

There is no requirement for Education Inclusion Partners team to support EHE children with a hearing impairment and that the LA has no power to instruct parents except if reasonable concerns are raised. But there is a system to regulate and monitor. If partners have any safeguarding concerns then they should raise them through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Sarah to check NHS role. Concern of a safeguarding issue if child is failed to be brought or was not brought to clinic. Then partners should refer through their safeguarding mechanism.

The link to the information about [Elective Home Education](#) can be found on the LA website and specific advice for children with [special educational needs who are home educated](#). AW will e-mail service manager to confirm if partner agencies are expected to contact the EIP. A small number of children may be affected and whether they are entitled to a monitoring visit from a Teacher of the Deaf needs to be confirmed. Those children who are too sick to attend school may also be missing out. AW is also investing systems in place for these students.

l. Parent representatives

It was agreed that Sarah will contact NCDS and NCFG to formally invite them to represent parents.

m. Young people representation

TD has sent Sarah link about Royal College of Paediatricians Children and Young people's development worker. Option for young people to be contacted.

Can Use Young health Watch and Deaf Connect youth groups. Will need BSL interpreter for P & E group to attend the Deaf Connect Youth groups

A discussion took place about the TOD questionnaire undertaken some time ago and whether it would be beneficial to repeat it. Sarah still has a copy of the results and will review. Kate said that the Ear Foundation also have a Young Leaders group Young people involvement

n. Educational audiology and SALT project

KD from The Ear Foundation will share the project report with the group

JB and GW completed project Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals. – (CELF) for TOD team. Pre-school and school age (up to 11)

o. Radio aids

Information passed back to loan equipment service and manufacturers.

FM system fitted for student, and child is at age appropriate language already.

GW asked about another family with child at age 5/52 requesting radio aids. Child currently out of criteria. If they have three month loan from NCDS what is optimal time/age?

2. Local Offer

Kathy reported that still waiting for confirmed CHSWG minutes to publish on Local Offer.

3. Safeguarding update

Sarah reported that the new process has been discussed at the East Midlands Network meetings the final document still to be completed by Sarah and Reena. The clinics are now issuing letters based on diabetic service for those children who have not attended clinic.

To be sent to all children who need to be seen.

3 phase letters: each gaining in urgency. The final letter states that a referral to safeguarding/Social services has been made after checking for any valid reasons for non-attendance.

2nd DNA makes a PLF

Sarah working with NHS safeguarding to see if the letter system has improved attendance.

4. Updates from representatives

Parents – there was no parent representative

Social Care there was no social care representative

Education (early years and school age)

EY's quality standard sent to RM and GW. AW advised that partners may expect to hear from Rosemary.

New TOD started in Sept 2018 in north of county. Another qualified teacher is starting in January. Will be fully staffed.

New unitary authorities not defined yet. Joint Planning Stage at the moment. Shadow arrangements to be set up by the authorities.

Educational Audiologist

Working on a project with FIRMAC – their new managing director wanted to get involved – will like to discuss options. FIRMAC suggested that any work is peer reviewed. Karen (from Kettering) said that will need to consider medical ethics and follow NHS research protocols.

Need to clarify if it is research or not. There is a brief from FIRMAC that can be shared and to be arranged before Christmas break.

Yvonne Allen is now qualified educational audiologist. Yvonne will be working one day per fortnight dedicated to educational audiology.

Electronic referral forms: on line form to define a referral. Firmstep Needs to be checked in testing. AW would like this to be finalised before the

Upgrades process working well.

NCDS asked if a deaf child with a radio aid in an independent school is entitled to a free service, with or without a plan. NCC needs clarification.

Focus day in Coventry January information day Sarah

FIRMAC – rechargeable hearing aids will be available in the near future.

Training delivered to schools raising deaf awareness and school checks. eg radio aids to be checked on a daily basis

The team has done the Ear Foundation online course on autism and deafness. Which was well received and viewed as useful.

Speech and language therapy

Re- commissioned and now waiting for new referrals.

Collating information about working memory

hope to be able to liaise with TOD's (AW)

NDCS

a) Quality standards in FE -

NDCS will be consulting with young people's organisation to draft standards.

b) A National Audiology services survey has been released by NCDS report published on 15th October. (NB this is now published on the Local Offer)

c) Early years toolkit – free training in East Midlands (which NCC attended) It provides an action plan for staff. Feedback really positive.

d) NCDS panel Education professional's panel needs new recruits –

e) New schedule of training/webinars to be made available.

Deafconnect

Senior youth group working on mental health topic.

Working with NAYC to deliver Bite size wellbeing.

Youth clubs are held twice a month offering life skills for all children. They are taking it in turns to cook for each other.

They went to Cadbury's world. Bought train tickets to get there. Experienced one or two issues with accessibility.

Two members of the youth group attending emerging leader's course with NAYC.

Delivering more deaf awareness training in schools. Excellent feedback from hospital staff saying how good the adult training was.

Family sign language courses - high demand. Anne suggested that SIS and Jennie can work together on this as Deaf Connect have a waiting list.

Working with SIS to deliver coffee morning –

Working with NDCS to have a Christmas Party. In Kettering Kids Play.

Ear Foundation also run a social group.

Audiology (NGH, KGH)

Dr Proskovia Kabanda-Iga will be replacing Dr Bob Finch - she will be full time with same allocation of time that Dr Bob Finch gave.

CHSWG (ST) to send letter to say thank you.

Audiology

Kettering have designed a new conductive hearing loss protocol for temporary and permanent loss. Reena will share with Sarah and CHSWG when it has been approved.

Demonstration equipment for wireless technology – some families have gone on to purchase equipment. But need to purchase from reputable resource.

Reena is leaving and her last day is 4th January 2019. Hoping for post to be filled as a paediatric post.

Northampton's reception area being changed. Visitors will report to Children's OPD and the audiology clinic will be swipe access only, date to be advised.

Generic appointment staff may need deaf awareness training.

Staffing – paediatric audiology senior employed but another maternity leave planned. WTE hours will be increased, including admin support. As of 1st October the team have designated hours with their PA, to coordinate the IQIIPS accreditation process.

NHSP (NGH/KGH)

NHSP report sent to Anne Marie

Paediatricians

NHSP from Northampton reports showed that the numbers of baby screened was good throughout the year.

NHSP was affected by families not attending for various reason. There were low numbers

2 new staff screening. One has left, vacancy. : Local Manager in post from 2017 - implementing new

processes.

Next inspection will be in 2020.

Delighted that sharing of good practice meetings between KGH and MKH. Public Health England also attend. Contact details from Anne Marie please.

Annual report already submitted.

Ear Foundation Kate is now the local CHSWG rep for the Ear Foundation and needs to be added to the membership group. Her e-mail address is. kate@earfoundation.org.uk

It was reported that Ear Foundation can run play groups for five sessions. Can establish new groups or go to an existing group. GW/AW will contact Ear Foundation to discuss.

They can provide Birth support – early listening technology etc.

Ear Foundation able to train whoever needs support. Currently focussed on Early Years. Which offers an accredited course with two face to face modules and online modules. But available for primary and secondary too.

Online course on autism and deafness. (as completed locally).

5. Any Other Business

Dr Proscovia Kabanda-Iga to be invited to future CHSWG - Dr Davies asked to get in touch.

A Conference coming up in London.

AW asked if hospitals can indicated how many children will be upgraded to ensure that the equipment budget will be sufficient. It was noted that there is an wo yearly upgrade.

6. Date and time of next meetings

30th January 2019 in Kettering **9.30 to 12.00 – please note the earlier time.** Venue to be booked.

22 May 2019 in Northampton 9.30 to 12.00