

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

5 March 2014

Apologies: Claire Hoggeth (Social Worker for the Deaf), Barbara Stanton (Health Visitor), Jane Fairclough (Speech and Language), Jan Wilson (Team Leader Teacher of the Deaf), Esther Bradley (Parent), Wendy Westgarth (NDCS – Family Liaison)

Present: Debbie Harrison (Head of Newborn Screening), Jan Seaman (Sensory Service Manager), Teri Cockburn (Mum – Owen Cockburn), Irene Kelly (Audiologist)

1. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes were read through and agreed to be a true record of the last meeting.

2. Newborn Hearing Screening

Debbie gave an update of the financial changes that will be coming into effect. The funding arrangements have changed. Debbie's team have looked at cost cutting measures that ensure the quality of service is maintained. Team members are ensuring that the service is working efficiently. As part of this move towards greater efficiency the screening clinic will no longer be held at Hexham hospital. In practice very few parents needed this service and all new mums will be able to have their baby screened at the RVI.

Feedback from parents going through the screening process has once again been excellent. All targets have been met.

3. Audiological Transition Morning

Jan S and Irene gave feedback on the event held at Concordia Leisure Centre on Saturday 8 February. For our first event this was extremely successful. Emerick had taking the lead in the organisation of the morning and in the invitations sent out. He took lots of photographs to put in his final report.

4. Post 16 liaison with NDCS, North of Tyne Sensory Services and FE Colleges

Meetings have taken place between NDCS, Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside Sensory Services, Ashington and Newcastle FE Colleges. Discussions have focused around provision, transition and equipment needs. Unfortunately due to a change in staff at Tyne Met they have been unable to attend. Alison Lawson is liaising with others nationally. Future meetings will be held.

5. North Tyneside Service Developments (including Family Signing)

Family signing is being held weekly. Sonia McAndrews is the signing teacher. She is deaf herself and all families are thoroughly enjoying the sessions. Sonia is looking to continue this next year.

Jan Wilson and Jen Keith were both in Nottingham following courses run by the ear foundation. One was on apps for deaf children and the other was looking at vocabulary in the primary school.

6. Local Offer

The VI team had already arranged to meet with a group of parents (7 March) to discuss the Sensory Service Local Offer, looking at information needed regarding children with a Visual Impairment. Parents who have children with a Hearing Impairment will be contacted and invited to a meeting to discuss the above with the focus being Hearing Impairment.

7. Health Visitor Training Dates

Barbara was unable to attend the meeting so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. A.O.B.

Irene gave an update with regards to her leaving and taking up opportunities to do voluntary work in South America. After the summer she will be returning to Ireland to pick up her Audiological work. She informed the meeting that Charlotte will return at the end of the summer.

The next meeting will be held at **Beacon Hill on Wednesday 18 June at 1pm**