

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

8 June 2014

Apologies: Claire Hoggeth (Social Worker for the Deaf), Barbara Stanton (Health Visitor), Wendy Westgarth (NDCS – Family Liaison), Irene Kelly (Audiologist), Denise Dunwoody (Parent)

Present: Debbie Harrison (Head of Newborn Screening), Jan Seaman (Sensory Service Manager), Teri Cockburn (Mum – Owen Cockburn), Jane Fairclough (Speech and Language), Esther Bradley (Parent), Jan Wilson (Team Leader Teacher of the Deaf), Alison Lawson (NDCS – Regional Manager)

1. Minutes from last meeting

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

2. Update to Audiological Transition Morning

JS told the group went well. Emerick has completed a report that can be emailed to you. JS agreed to email this to everyone. Feedback from parents and children was very positive. Newcastle College were the only college to give a talk; other colleges should be encouraged to do this. This transition morning will be bi-annually. Year 9 were invited and will continue to be invited. JS feels that these students are young but they should still be invited. JS has put it to the group that the next meeting should be held at the Freeman Hospital. She feels this would be an ideal venue as it has good transport links and is known to everyone.

3. Updates to developments in Post 16 Liaison with the NDCS and North of Tyne Sensory Services

Alison told us that there are issues across the local authority. The NDCS has had the meetings with Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside Sensory Services. The local authority now hold the budget for Post 16 education. The next stage is to contact the people responsible for Post 16 transition; Tyne Met is proving very difficult. JS said she will speak to the deputy at Beacon Hill and get the name of the person that deals with Post 16 Transition at Tyne Met.

Newcastle College has a high level of deaf students; approximately 50. It has a Technology Department for the equipment that these children need. Alison Lawson emphasised that Tyne Met need to be involved. 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 to discuss this service as this will be in place from 0-25 years and if you have a Deaf child with a statement this will lapse when they're 16 years. Discussions will take about working together, supporting employers/training providers and raising awareness. Next week there is a Post 16 Regional Conference; there are approx. 30 people coming from the region. Deaf students have a good level of support, usually from a Sensory Service staff, up until the age of 16 (18 if they're in a

school Sixth Form). If the student goes to an FE College they are supported by a CSW but no longer receive support from the Sensory Service and in most cases no longer have contact with a Teacher of the Deaf. NDCS are asking why the support should be different if you go an FE College.

4. North Tyneside Service Developments

a) Signing

The Sensory Service have run a family signing class for approximately a year. They have a hardcore of 3 families that regularly attend. JS has agreed with Sonia McAndrew and the Adult Learning Alliance to start a new class and continue with the class that is already established. Esther told JS that she would like to attend but has been unable to due to homework club that Archie must attend. She asked if they would consider any night but a Wednesday so that she can attend with Archie. It has also been agreed that Sonia will be a Deaf role model for parents; this will be on a need led basis.

b) Marden Resource Base

As of September 2014, there will be no students attending the Resource Base. This is because there aren't any students coming through the system at the moment. The facilities will still be maintained there and staff at Marden will be kept up to date with Deaf Awareness. AL asked why keep it? JS told her that she feels that parents should have this option. It is a good resource and a super school. If a child is struggling in mainstream parents should have this option to transfer to Marden, as has happened in the past.

c) Funding

Funding will be continuing for the service. The service will be losing the funding for the Resource Base.

d) 0-2 Years course at Mary Hare

JS explained that one of the NHSP criticisms was that the person that we qualified on the 0-2 years left the service. Rebecca Berry will be starting the 0-2 course in liaison with Mary Hare from September. JW told the group that all of the HI team have attended a 0-2 AV course; this was tailor made for the service.

5. Local Offer

The Sensory Service has had a consultation with parents from VI and HI. Esther has looked at the website and feels it has all the information is there and is easy to understand but it could do with more pictures and interactions. Lots of discussion took place about FM Systems. NDCS are in discussions about this. There needs to be some clarification about whose responsibility it is to pay and repair the FM Systems. JW said she thought that for North Tyneside this would go out to schools at some point.

6. Health Visitor Training Dates

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

7. North of Tyne Newborn Hearing Screening Programme - latest parental feedback

Overall feedback was very positive. Debbie read through some comments. There was 1 negative comment about audiology; kept waiting for an hour. This was due to staffing.

8. AOB

NATSIP data will be completed over the summer. Questionnaires have been posted to parents. Pupil questionnaires will be completed with the Teacher of the Deaf.

Activities have been organised throughout the year for a small group of HI students at Benton Park Primary School; these activities will continue next year and will take place once a term.

The next meeting will be held at **Beacon Hill on Wednesday 22 October at 1pm**