

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

25 February 2015

Apologies: Wendy Westgarth (NDCS – Family Liaison, Alison Lawson (NDCS – Regional Manager), Lisa Slater (Cochlear Implant Team) Barbara Stanton, Emma Gashi (Newborn hearing screening)

Present: Jan Seaman (Sensory Service Manager), Teri Cockburn (Parent), Angela May (Speech and Language), Esther Bradley (Parent), Jan Wilson (Team Leader, Teacher of the Deaf), Denise Dunwoody (Parent), Charlotte Wilson (Audiology)

1. Minutes from last meeting

- JS will contact Social Services to see if a representative can attend the CHSWG meetings.
- JS explained that CHSWG usually have a meeting once every term, but unfortunately, due to the service being short staffed we've been unable to organise a meeting.
- Charlotte explained that it is difficult to know when the young people and families to know when they go from Paediatrics to Adult Services. Audiology are making children/young people more aware of how to be independent.
- Statements will stand for the next 3 year, and then discussions will take place over the One Plan. The child will be reviewed regularly and old statement reviews will be carried out. With the One Plan the money would still go to the school; review meetings will be held to make sure the money is being spent in the right area. The One Plan can support children/young people up to the age of 25 and this will be reviewed regularly. With the One Plan access to equipment would be there until the age of 25, with a statement the equipment would be withdrawn at 16 if they left school and went into FE (College). College would be responsible to provide equipment needed.

2. Update from Audiology

- Newborn babies identified are now getting tested for CMV (Cytomegalovirus) within 4 weeks. CMV often presents in pregnancy as a common cold. It is important CMV is treated to prevent a potential, progressive hearing loss; if it is over 4 weeks the test is not as successful. If a baby tests positive for CMV an MRI scan will be offered; this is usually arranged quite quickly so that it can be done without general anaesthetic. They are using the feed and wrap, the idea is that you feed them and the baby sleeps whilst having the scan. This method has been very successful for some but not for others; not all babies sleep after feeding. Some parents are finding this too much to deal with but it is useful to get all of these tests out of the way. A lot of the CMV screens have come back positive.
- Audiology being more pro-active with unilateral loss. There are a lot of tests completed but parents may not hear of these until the later stages.
- Ostrich Trials
 - Grommets
 - Hearing Aids – these are being taking up more

Alternative is

- Ostrich trials, (you can't take part in this if you have grommets, development problems, cleft pallet) – this is steroid treatment for glue ear. Lots of people have taken this up this option; it is the same dose of steroid used for asthmatics. It is a double blind trial – some get steroids, some don't. 60% have dramatic improvement but no evidence on how long recovery lasts.

When trial is finished, if the statistics are convincing this might be something that is offered.

- Higher use of aids for conductive loss – this has a knock on effect. Initially the Service offers a weekly visit. Conductive loss is monitored every 3 months in audiology. It is a lot of time and expense for audiology but it is a good thing that hearing aids are more accepted.

3. Updates from developments in North of Tyne Sensory Services

- **Family Sign Classes**
Two family sign classes running; beginners and advanced. They are both doing well and parents and children are enjoying it. Sonia McAndrew is running both courses, JS said that Sonia might suggest that the advanced group do BSL 1. JW told the group that there may be a charge for this.
- **0-2 training at Mary Hare**
JS told the group that funding has been secured for Rebecca Berry to complete this.
- **Benton Park Activities**
JS explained that because more parents are choosing mainstream school but there is often only 1 deaf child in a class and can be very lonely. Events have been arranged to get the deaf children together and do activities.
- **NATSIP**
NATSIP report on achievements for hearing impaired children. In the past these statistics haven't included mild loss but, now, because they're on the database they must be included; she has to report on them.
- **College**
JS now has close liaison with Connexions because lots of support is offered to students without discussion with other agencies. If support is offered and then not given to the student this can mean that parents can be dissatisfied with the LA. Students need to be encouraged to be more independent.
- **Service Website**
JS reminded everyone about the website; no other Service has their own website. The website is regularly updated with activities. JS discussed photos on the website. She will get the permission form from the local authority so that photos can be uploaded.
- **STARS**
JW told everyone that there is two STARS events organised in March; Star Bowling. JW emphasised that they need to encourage families to attend the STAR's groups. JW is concerned that this group is not as well attended as Teen STARS and she is concerned about this.

- **FUNDING**

JS explained that she had receive some funding; £5,000 for VI and £7,000 for HI. Rogers radio aids have been purchased with the money for HI.

4. Local Offer

JS told the group that the Local Offer is now on the Website. You can also get to this from the North Tyneside Council Website. The website is:

www.northtynesidesensoryservicew.org.uk

5. North of Tyne Newborn Hearing Screening Programme - latest update.

6. AOB

- Jan introduced Denise Dunwoody, parent of Emily Dunwoody to everyone. Although Denise lives in Northumberland her daughter attends a school in North Tyneside. She also introduced Angela May, Speech and Language Therapist; Angela has taken over from Jane Fairclough.

The next meeting will be held at **Beacon Hill on Wednesday 3 June at 1.30pm**