

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

25 February 2015

Apologies: Wendy Westgarth (NDCS – Family Worker), Lisa Slater (Cochlear Implant Team) Barbara Stanton, Esther Bradley (Parent), Jan Wilson (Team Leader, Teacher of the Deaf), Denise Dunwoody (Parent)

Present: Jan Seaman (Sensory Service Manager), Teri Cockburn (Parent), Angela May (Speech and Language), Charlotte Wilson (Audiology), Alison Lawson (NDCS – Regional Manager), Emma Gashi (Newborn hearing screening)

The group welcomed Emma who was attending for the first time.

Jan again suggested she would step down from chairing CHSWG if anyone is interested.

1. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Update from Audiology

- Charlotte provided an update from the Freeman Audiology department. Families who are seen at clinics will be given information regarding what to expect in their audiological appointment.
- Charlotte informed the group that the department are in the process of developing a Paediatric Audiological Booklet, which will contain lots of relevant information for families. She shared a number of information sheets with the group and asked CHSWG member to look over them and send suggestions.
- The handouts were:
 - Children's Hearing Assessment
 - Paediatric Hearing Service – Referral for further testing
 - Paediatric Hearing Service – Referral for hearing aid fitting
- Immediate feedback from the group was very positive. The only immediate suggestion was for colour and cartoons to make them a more attractive read for families. However this may not be possible as NHS leaflets are designed to a corporate formula. **Charlotte agreed to send a copy of these to Alison Lawson.**
- Charlotte informed the group that the department can struggle to give out all the NDCS booklets. **Alison agreed to email Charlotte with a facts sheet.**
- In 2016 there will be another Transition Day for young people and families from North of the Tyne Services.
- The Audiological Department are hoping to appoint a new Band 7 Audiologist whose special focus will be adults with additional needs.

3. Updates from the NDCS

- Alison informed the group that Wendy Westgarth's role has changed. The NDCS has gone through a restructuring and the family workers are no longer linked to a specific region. They have moved towards working directly with children and young people. More resources are available from the helpline. If a family needs specialist support they will be allocated a worker.

- The NDCS have received feedback with regards to audiological provision nationally. There were no issues with Audiology North of Tyne.
- The NDCS have received responses from their Freedom of Information requests. Alison was pleased to report that the results show the lowest levels in recent years in terms of cuts. The North East Region has been ok. There have been no particular issues raised in this region apart from the odd query arising from a vacant post. The NDCS have taken the lead on the CRIDE Survey. This has shown that there are increasing numbers of deaf children.
- The NDCS will be/are advertising the availability of funds for those wishing to learn to sign.
- There is a Healthy Minds course running in York.
- Alison had already circulated an information sheet which provided an update of NDCS courses and resources for all CHSWG's. **Our thanks to Alison for that.**
- There is a social work North East group meeting for social workers of the deaf on Monday 8 June. North Tyneside are unfortunately not sending a representative. It will be looking at the practice of social care and will carry out 'the mapping' of social care support in the region.
- Alison checked out with Jan Seaman some details regarding North Tyneside Social Care e.g. The Front Door Service, referrals, etc.

4. **Updates from North Tyneside Sensory Service**

- Having looked at the database and new referrals it has been decided that a full time MSI post has been advertised. The person appointed will work with both HI and VI teams. Interviews will be held in the very near future.
- Staffing remains stable.
- Funding remains stable.
- Staff have received training from Nottingham and Edinburgh.

5. **North of Tyne Newborn Hearing Screening Programme – latest update.**

- Emma reported that her background was as a paediatric nurse and school health nurse.
- She presented data which reflected a 99.3% screening. 1837 babies have been screened, 104 referrals have been made to audiology and 3 permanent hearing losses have been recorded.
- If parents decline or do not attend a letter is sent to the health visitor.
- The maternity unit at Wansbeck Hospital is closing and moving to the Northumberland service.

6. **AOB**

- **For the first time ever the meeting ran for a little over 2 hours. Although this was very unusual Jan will request a brief up to date report to be sent from all the services before the next meeting.**
- Because the meeting was longer than anticipated certain items have been postponed and will be discussed at the next meeting. They are:
 - a. National Hearing System North East Network**
 - b. IT from Heads and Deputies course**

The next meeting will be held at **Beacon Hill on Wednesday 23 September at 1.15pm**