

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

23 September 2015

Apologies: Jan Wilson (Team Leader, Teacher of the Deaf), Emma Gashi (Newborn hearing screening)

Present: Jan Seaman (Sensory Service Manager), Teri Cockburn (Parent), Charlotte Wilson (Audiology), Alison Lawson (NDCS – Regional Manager), Denise Dunwoody (Parent)

1. Minutes from last meeting

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

2. Updates from Services

Audiology

- Charlotte reported that the Freeman have prescribed a significant number of hearing aids for children with glue ear/conductive losses. In many cases the child is also referred to the ENT clinic. Many are then placed on the surgeons list for grommets, after which the child does not need the use of a hearing aid. There has been some difficulty in families returning hearing aids that are no longer needed. The audiology department at the Freeman have requested that teachers in the service inform the department if a child they are working with is no longer wearing his/her aid.

In future the audiology will offer children/families a bone conductor aid (soft band). There are concerns of over amplification if the child continues to wear the aid and their glue ear/conductive loss improves. There is also a significant cost implication for the hospital if the hearing aids are not returned.

- Charlotte reported that an audiologist from the Freeman will be holding regular clinics at Rake Lane Hospital. This will be particularly good for families that are having to travel by public transport.
- Catherine an audiologist in the team has experience with special needs children and young people. She has developed a pathway for Downs Syndrome.
- There is now a new protocol for the part funding of radio aids.
- Charlotte reported that there is a careers event being held at the RVI on the 17th October, providing information about careers available in the NHS.

NDCS

- Alison submitted information prior to the meeting which gave an update on the work of the NDCS. This was much appreciated.
- She circulated information regarding CHSWG training for parents.
- Wendy Westgarth did not attend the meeting because her role within NDCS has changed. She continues to work with children and families however this is no

longer a regional post. Wendy maybe needed to liaise with families across the length and breadth of England. The NDCS have also increased the responses picked up by the helpline staff. Jan Seaman is going to send a letter highlighting the need for Wendy to attend North Tyneside CHSWG.

- Alison also gave feedback regarding social care and the new working group in the North East. This is the first group that has been set up in England. North Tyneside is not represented so Alison gave feedback to Ann Cassidy.
- Alison raised issues regarding North Tyneside's Local Offer. The NDCS has looked at Local Offers nationally and offered advice.

3. Updates from North Tyneside Sensory Service

- Ken Finn the new MSI Teacher has started work for the service.
- The manager of the service attended a meeting with senior audiological staff to discuss the part funding of radio aids for children in North Tyneside. Agreement has been reached that:
 - The service will have a stock of radio systems that will be given to children for trial use. After the trial period if the child has met all the requirements needed a request will be submitted to the Freeman Audiological department requesting part funding.
 - The family will be required to sign an agreement committing them to care of the radio aid.
 - The hospital will fund the child's receivers and the service will fund the teacher's transmitter.

This will be particularly useful for the service as it means there will be more funds available for the buying of radio aids.

- Jan W and Jan S are in the process of arranging a parents and babies/toddlers morning. This would take place one Saturday morning per month. It will be offered to all parents with babies/toddlers.
- The service website and the Local Offer are in the process of being reviewed by parents, children and young people, staff and other professionals.
- Jan S had attended a one day conference in the Summer term. Part of the day was looking at ICT developments. The service is going to follow this up i.e. placing a code on a child's piece of work which can then be shared only with that child's parents.

4. A.O.B

- Teri raised the issue of the delay in receiving her sons Phonak receivers for his radio aid. There has been significant delay and in addition, issues over colours. The audiologists are aware of this but Charlotte would raise this back at the Freeman as the department is busy liaising with Phonak.
- The group offered their congratulations to Charlotte who will be going on maternity leave in the new year.

The next meeting will be held at **Beacon Hill on 6 January 2016 at 1:15pm**