

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

1 March 2017

Apologies: Barbara Stanton, Alison Lawson, Jenny Alden, Lisa Slater

Present: Nick Cubley, Teri Cockburn, Denise Dunwoody, Cassandra Towes, Lindsey Short, Angela May, Lyndsay Gray, Suzanne Monaghan, Claire Kay (Senior Social Worker)

1. Minutes from last meeting

There were 2 amendments from Newborn Hearing Screening:

- Not all screeners have to take the qualification
- The new database went live on 1 December

2. Introductions

Nick introduced himself to the other members. This is his first CHSWG meeting for North Tyneside. Everyone introduced themselves to the group.

3. Update from Newborn Hearing Screening

- 99.3% of children are screened within 4 weeks
- 90.6% seen in audiology by 4 weeks
- An audit and plan is in place to reduce unnecessary referrals to Audiology
- There are 3 screeners that are based at Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital

4. Update from Audiology – Freeman Hospital

- Charlotte and Kayleigh are back to work; Audiology is now fully staffed.
- Hearing aid review appointments have been late going out but this should be rectified now that the department is fully staffed.
- Kayleigh will complete training for Newborn Hearing Screening; this should be complete in 6-12 month.
- Mr Meikle has withdrawn from the Children's Hearing Clinic. Mr Powell and Mr Yates will now cover these clinics. The system should be much more streamlined.
- There is a strain on the workload in the BAHA clinic. Charlotte and a colleague are both training to work in this department. A clear pathway is being put in place for Paediatric BAHA.
- The latest Phonak Sky hearing aids are now being issued to children needing an upgrade. The 'glowing light' feature on the new hearing aids make it easy to see if the hearing aid is working. There is a good range of colours; the Freeman have five colours to choose from.
- There are allocated slots at Paediatric Repairs, parents are being advised to make an appointment before or after school.

5. Update from Cochlear Implant Team

Nick gave everyone a report from Lisa Slater to read at their leisure.

6. Update from North Tyneside Sensory Service

- Staffing – Nick was on the panel for interviewing for the Team Leader post. Two candidates were interviewed for this post; no one was appointed. Nick agreed with governors that the primary need for the service is to identify where the staffing needs are for front line work with the children. Nick has identified that a Team Leader post is not required, however, he does need someone to deputise within the Service. Nick and Justina (Head teacher at Beacon Hill) are considering the possibility of creating a role within the service for an assistant manager.
- Nick has completed an audit for the current caseload of the service; he looked at how many hours of support are needed compared to the hours of teaching time available. There is a shortfall of 2 days on the HI team due to the fact that Jan Wilson HI Team Leader has not been replaced; Rebecca Berry will take up additional Teacher of the Deaf hours after Easter to cover this.
- Kate Nesbitt, TOD and QTVI, is currently on maternity leave, she is due back in September.
- Nick has shadowed all sensory staff during his first half term in post. This was a good opportunity for him to meet the children, parents, school staff and SENCOs.
- Ken Finn is currently studying the MSI teaching course, he will complete this course in July 2017. Ken's caseload is made up with children with a dual sensory loss or children with a hearing or visual impairment within the special school setting.
- All members of the team now have an iPad to use as a teaching tool.
- Staff are using the Seesaw App – this is a way of recording children's progress in a visual way. Staff can take a photo of the student demonstrating what they are doing; this can be saved on Seesaw and shared with parents. This is a good way of recording the progress of children. Staff are getting familiar with the app, they will then invite parents to view their child's work.
- The service Twitter account, @NTsensory, now has 93 followers. This is a good way of communicating with schools, agencies and families.
- Family Forum – every family across the service has been invited to join the Family Forum. The first meeting will be held on the 21 March from 5.30-7.30 at Beacon Hill; the group will then meet once a term. This is a good way to allow families to contribute to the development of the Service. Nick will also be asking for feedback on the website.
- STARS – 32 children and families have attended STARS events this term.
 - Baby STARS went to soft play
 - Primary STARS went to Pizza Hut
 - Teen STARS went to Frankie and Benny's

These events are good for the children as many of them might be the only hearing impaired child in the school.

Nick has also now opened this up to the VI children.

Another set of the events are being arranged for the Summer.

- A student who is now studying at Northumbria University is doing the Great North Run to raise money for the STARS group. There is a link for his Just Giving page on Twitter.

7. Updates from Speech and Language

- Lyndsay Gray joined the team in May 2015. Lindsay is working towards completing the course for working with deaf children.
- Termly meetings have been set up to liaise with the HI team.
- Angela discussed the possibility of shadowing a Teacher of the Deaf and Audiology.

8. A.O.B.

None

The next meeting will be held at Beacon Hill School, on 7 June 2017 at 1.30pm.