

Minutes of CHSWG Meeting

7 June 2017

Apologies: Teri Cockburn, Cassandra Towes, Lindsey Short

Present: Nick Cubley, Denise Dunwoody, Lyndsey Gray, Alison Lawson

1. Minutes from last meeting

Nick made the amendments to the Newborn Screening before they were distributed.

2. Matters arising

- Alison questioned, 'a clear pathway is being put in place for Paediatric BAHA'. All HI staff have received BAHA training at the Freeman. Nick told the group that one child he works with has been fitted with a Cochlear 5 BAHA and the difference is phenomenal.

Alison talked about being a 'centre'; if you consider yourself to be a 'centre' you have to be able to offer the whole range of implants. Freeman fit BAHA's and performs middle ear transplants. Mr Yates does perform Cochlear Implant operations on behalf of Middlesbrough. Charlotte was not entirely sure if Freeman class themselves as a 'centre'.

- Alison asked Lyndsey Gray about the course that she is studying. The course Lyndsey is studying is 'Working with Deaf Children'; the course has 3 parts. CSD run the course with Ruth Merrit and colleagues.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists are working with the NDCS to develop a service specification. Alison will send Lyndsey a copy of this.

3. Update from Newborn screening

Nick read out some information that Lisa emailed to him.

- KPI (Key Performance Indicator) 1
- KPI 2 – 95.2% of babies are seen within 4 weeks. This meets targets.
- All screeners new in post must undertake a qualification.
- Some of the Newborn Screeners are going to do a charity walk to raise money for the 'STARS' group. A Just Giving page will be set up to raise money for this – a link to this will be put on the Sensory Service Website and Twitter page.

4. Update from NDCS

- Post 14 Language and Communication
This will be the focus over the next 5 years, working towards independence.
- MSI – there is a lack of expertise in assessing children with MSI. Expertise in this area is bought in and is very expensive. Every local authority is meeting the child's need in their own way; Teacher of the Deaf to deal with the hearing loss and a Teacher of the Visually Impaired to deal with the visual impairment.

An MSI teacher has the knowledge of the impact of the two losses combined. There are only two teachers in the region and neither are qualified.

People have different definitions for MSI. Alison will contact local authorities to meet and talk about MSI. She said there should be someone at Director level that has knowledge of MSI.

Denise told the group that her daughter is MSI but she has worked with a Teacher of the Deaf and the Mobility officer; this has been a success and Emily has coped well.

- Post 16 – this is a very grey area, the Sensory Service is not commissioned to work in FE Colleges at present

5. Update from Audiology – Freeman Hospital

- The Paediatric department is being refurbished as of Monday 12 June – this will be for approximately a month. There will also be a second paediatric room built. This will make it a more paediatric friendly environment. Some appointments will be transferred over to North Tyneside and Northumberland while the work is taking place.
- Children with a temporary hearing loss will be fitted with different aids. This will make it easier to distinguish this population. Oticon hearing aids will be used; these aids are cheaper. It can be difficult to have the unused aids returned to the hospital; this maybe something that Sensory Service could help with.
- Glue ear – there are now strict guidelines for Glue Ear.
- There is a new member of staff at the Freeman that is trained in paediatrics.

6. Updates from Cochlear Implant Team

- No-one from Cochlear Implant Team was in attendance

7. Updates from North Tyneside

- Nick has reviewed staff working in the service to the need of children; the service is fully staffed to meet the needs of the children. We had a vacancy for a full time Team Leader; this post wasn't filled. When Nick reviewed the staffing there wasn't a need for a full time teacher with 1 day management. A member of staff is currently working an extra 2 days per week.

A new role of Assistant Manager will be advertised internally; this will have a TLR and SEN point attached. This would be a pay rise for any teacher within the service. The Assistant Manager would deputise in Nick's absence, share practical and strategic side of it. They would have an overview of both HI and VI and would have 1 to 1.5 days a week off timetable.

The new role will have to go to consultation and will hopefully start in September.

- The service is going to advertise for a Specialist Sensory Support Assistant. Initially this post will be to work with the VI team. We will then have 3 Teaching Assistants working with the team; Nick would like them all to be skilled up in both areas. This will give the service more flexibility with absences. The funding for this post will come from the Top Up money that goes to schools. Nick will draw up an agreement with the school for payment.

- Nick is reviewing various areas of the service:
 - Database – all student information is stored on the service database. NatSIP and CRIDE surveys highlighted the need to update the information stored on the database. This new database should be up and running by September.
 - Recording and reporting of information – developing one report for all outside agencies. Information stored for the VI and HI team has also been streamlined.
 - Monitoring visits – a check list will be developed of what should be done on these visits.
 - Website and Local Offer – the website is in the process of being updated. The Local Offer has been updated and uploaded to the website.
 - Family Forum – This is a way to meet with parents in an formal way to seek their views. The group will meet bi-annually. Nick held the Family Forum in March; this was well attended. They looked at the website, Local Offer and STARs activities.
 - Policies – this is the next thing Nick will be looking at reviewing.
- Nick would like to develop a Children’s Forum.
- Twitter – the followers are growing.
- STARs activities, this has also been opened up to VI students:
 - Baby STARs (0-4 years)
Teddy Bear’s Picnic at the Rising Sun Country Park on Saturday 24 June at 11am.
 - STARs (5-11 years)
Den Building Experience at the Rising Sun Country Park on Tuesday 5 July from 4.30-6.30.
 - Teen STARs (11+)
Nando’s at the Silverlink on Tuesday 11 July from 4.30-6.00.

8. Updates from Speech and Language

- Angela has 1 session with the team, Lyndsay works with the team most of the time.
- Lyndsay attends a termly meeting with teachers to share information.
- Lyndsay has shadowed Jacky working with children. This has been useful.
- Lyndsay is working 2 days with deaf children and 3 days with the community. Lyndsay is playing catch up since the cyber attack.

9. A.O.B.

A social worker should attend this meeting. Alison will try to get in touch and arrange a meeting to get them on board.

The next meeting will be held at Beacon Hill School, on 1 November 2017 at 1.30pm.