

Haringey and Enfield CHSWG

Minutes of the CHSWG Meeting Held Virtually via Zoom On Tuesday 1st November at 9.30am

ATTENDEES

Chloe Khan (CK) – Chair (QTOD)
 Bharti Solanki (BS) – Sensory Support Team Manager
 Ruth Fitzell (RF) - Parent Representative, Enfield
 Hannah Brown (HB) - Local Engagement Officer, NDCS
 Vibha Mistry – (VM) Chief Paediatric Audiologist, Whittington Health
 Abi Oakham (AO) - Haringey Deaf Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
 Alison Miles (AM) – Parent and Vice Chair Governors BN School, Blanche Nevile School
 Kathryn McCarthy (KMc) - Deputy Head BN Primary
 Laila Doobeh (LD) - Deputy Head BN Secondary
 Kinjal Mehta (KM) - Paediatric Audiologist, St Ann's
 Lisa York (LY) - Local Manager NHSP across Barnet, Enfield and Haringey
 Dr Radha Narayan (RN) - Consultant AVM Whittington
 Jeanette Martin (JM) - Lead TOD with CI Team at GOSH
 Richard Berndes (RB) - Parent Representative
 Meera Sebastianpillai (MS) - Paediatric Lead Audiology, Whittington Health
 Zahra Ahmadian (ZA) - Parent Representative

APOLOGIES

Caroline Fanning (CF) - Service Development Manager – Enfield SEND
 Marcela Vasquez (MV) – Parent, Haringey
 Emily Brooks (EB) - QTOD, CI at RNENT UCLH
 Zibby Loakthar (ZL) – Parent, Haringey
 Sabrina Batchelor (SB) – Parent Representative, Haringey

INTRODUCTION

CK – All members introduced themselves. AO kindly offered to take minutes.

REVIEW ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Action CK, CF - Update from Highlands at next meeting to revisit staffing concerns. Highlands representative to attend next meeting. How are views of students gathered?**
 - Feedback shared by Caroline Fanning in writing:
 - The trainee TOD at Highlands has undertaken the BSL Level 1 exam in July and will be starting the TOD training from September. She is line managed by the school SENCO (who is also new to role) and there is close oversight over the DRB from the Deputy Headteacher at the school. Chloe Bedford (who I believe has experience across primary and secondary) has been seconded by Highlands School to provide support to the trainee teacher which will include establishing systems for the DRB, modelling interventions and working towards areas on the action plan that will be jointly devised by the LA and School in early September. Bharti, Dani (Senior SIA for Safeguarding and Inclusion who is the ex-Headteacher at Brimsdown Primary) and I have been liaising closely with the school whilst they have been trying to recruit to this position. We will be visiting the school in early

September to agree on and establish priorities for the provision; this can include gathering student views to inform these priorities. Formal monitoring of the DRB is likely to take place in the Spring Term. (Feedback from CF).

- Positive parent experience (RB) - student has transitioned well to Highlands in September.
- Currently no qualified members of staff. 5/6 CSWs in the provision. Informal supportive visit carried out by LA in September and another formal visit later in the year. Will be buying in from Ewing Foundation for audiological support. CSWs providing equipment support on a daily basis.
- **Action CK, WM, AM - Separate working group meeting to begin looking at BSL tuition for families across services. Look at existing provision and then raise concerns / suggestions in Haringey and Enfield with commissioners**
 - Working group has met.
 - Agenda item – see below.
- **Action AW, CK – Deaf CAMHS PP slides to be shared with CHSWG members.**
 - Slides shared with all members.
- **Action all members - Information to be shared with as many families as possible. Schools to share within newsletters – to increase parent engagement with CHSWG.**
 - Parent forum run in September – two attendees. RF will have time to dedicate to this from January.
 - MS - to have a section re CHSWG on paediatric website as currently under review - then share draft with parents. Audiology team to feedback at next CHSWG or send via email. Leaflets and posters to be put on boards at audiology clinics. Include QR code on the poster to link to website.
- **Action - members tbc -working group to look at options for access to extra-curricular activities across LAs**
 - Group to be formed. Members to volunteer.
- **Action – Members to seek further information. Members from CI teams to seek clarification from medical professionals re specialist support at a and e departments**
 - JM – telephone number for GOSH implant team is for hours 9am to 5.30pm. Outside of that general ENT would need to be contacted.
 - Out of hours Emergency ENT Consultant needs to be properly informed and educated around CIs.
 - This requires further exploration.
 - ZA – could there be an equivalent of a disability passport for CI users?

Action MS -

Section on new paediatric website on CHSWG and parent forum. Draft to be shared with members / parents.

Action - audiology clinics –

CHSWG posters to be displayed in waiting areas. QR code to be displayed. New families informed.

Action – all members –

Volunteers needed for establishing a focus group looking at extra-curricular activities.

Action – implant centres –

Information shared with parents about how to access emergency support from those knowledgeable about CI. Explore possibility of CI passport.

SERVICES UPDATES

- HB - Links to learning BSL Online from NDCS. Different types of sign language classes are now on offer e.g., Baby and Toddler group, routines within the day, family 1:1 courses. Successful applicants will have 6 sessions with up to 7 family members. Families need to apply and register interest. The NDCS will look at provision once level of interest is established.
- RF – what is the eligibility criteria? HB – prioritised on basis of communications needs.
- All courses are advertised on the NDCS website. Courses start in the New Year and families should register interest.

Action – all members –

Families to be made aware of NDCS courses.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Agreement that ToR reflects current membership.
- RN – do we need representation by health commissioners.
- JM – ENT representation needed. This would offer a link when issues with referrals etc arise.
- BS – Could we consider having two main CHSG meetings each year and use the time that would be dedicated to a third meeting for focus group work, working on areas identified in the action plan. This was discussed but not moved forwards. To be raised at future meetings if required.

Action – members from UCLH and GOSH –

Identify and contact relevant professionals from ENT to invite to CHSWG meetings

Action- clinics to advise chair re who to contact for NHS representation at CHSWG

ACTION PLAN

- Groups assigned to breakout rooms for discussion about existing actions on plan and what is missing/needs amendments.
- Groups fed back via written notes. These amendments will be added to the action plan, which will be circulated to members for approval.
- AO to speak to Wendy Martin and Cherry Bloss re: specialist speech and language pathways, as raised in section:

Pathways to specialist speech and language therapy support are standardised across both LAs, with timely and equitable referrals.

Action- CK to amend and circulate plan. Chair and members to follow up agreed actions.

Action – reinstate focus group looking at support for families post-identification of deafness.

BSL FOCUS GROUP

- Next meeting next week.
- AM, CK, and WM met to discuss BSL for families. Barriers identified = time, money, and individual circumstances. WM was going to speak to BN and CK was going to speak to Brimsdown School while AM spoke to Remark.
- AM took part in campaign through NDCS in 2020 and has made contact to try and find out what happened with the campaign. Two main outcomes: families need access to BSL for deaf identity and communication and this should be part of the offer. Signature course is not necessarily relevant for families- need to learn different signs.
- If you live in London- Mayor has committed to Level 2 BSL courses if you are unemployed or on London Living Wage- but does leave a gap for those who don't need meet these criteria.
- Also, an issue around providers and capacity to meet the need.
- Birkdale Grant- access to BSL courses. Money is for the children who then give the money to their parents to learn the language.
- AM – BSL is essential for establishing deaf identity. Therefore, access to BSL should not be based purely on language use.
- Review what is on offer in the local community around the schools that offer BSL currently.
- Can be daunting for families to enrol in a very lengthy and long course that doesn't "meet need" in terms of providing a shared vocabulary.
- NDCS courses will support this.
- MS – there is often a struggle to book BSL interpreters for families in clinic.
- AO – levels 1 and 2 BSL courses are not what is needed for families – the NDCS courses sound very appropriate.
- BS – the DEI working for the Sensory Support Team offers BSL input for families across Haringey and Enfield.
- Cadburys are sponsoring the NDCS sign courses.
- RF – there are a number of online resources and it would be useful for someone to create a list of these.

Action – volunteer needed –

Develop a list of reputable online resources for learning BSL that can be shared with families. DEI and schools to review before use

DEVELOPMENT OF CHSWG CONTACT SHEET

- Members agreed.

Action CK –

Collate and share contact details for all CHSWG members

AOB

- KMc has tried to seek information from companies re: clear safety guidance on the issue around CI and induction hobs. Request to the group for information.
- The only written guidance is - **Advanced Bionics- cannot be closer than 50cm to induction hob.**
- BN 1 and 2 have offered their spaces for future parties/NLDCS in the future for free.
- RN – there is still an issue with many parents needing support when deafness is identified through the NHSP. It would be good to reinstate the previous sub-group looking at this.

BS – it might involve establishing a multi-disciplinary meeting post identification of deafness.

Action – reinstate focus group looking at support for families post-identification of deafness.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2023 - 9.30-11.30am