

Haringey and Enfield CHSWG

Minutes of the CHSWG Meeting Held Via Zoom On Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 9.30am

ATTENDEES

Chloe Khan (CK) – Chair (QTOD Sensory Support Team Haringey and Enfield)
 Abi Oakham (AO) - Haringey Deaf Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
 Ruth Fitzell (RF) - Parent Representative, Enfield
 Alison Miles (AM) – Parent and Vice Chair Governors BN School, Blanche Nevile School
 Kathryn McCarthy (KMc) - Deputy Head BN Primary
 Lynn Mega (LM) - Paediatric Audiologist, GOSH
 Kinjal Mehta (KM) - Paediatric Audiologist, St Ann's
 Lisa York (LY) - Local Managing Barnet/Enfield/Haringey, NHSP
 Wendy Martin (WM) - Clinical Coordinator, Speech and Language Therapy Service for Children who are Deaf (Camden, Islington, Haringey)
 Joanna Wanmer (JW) - Local Engagement Officer NDCS
 Bharti Solanki (BS) – Sensory Support Team Manager, Haringey and Enfield
 Elena Homea (EH) - Parent Representative, Enfield
 Caroline Fanning (CF) - Service Development Manager – Enfield SEND
 Zibiah Loakthar (ZL) - Secretary of NLDCS, Parent Representative Haringey

APOLOGIES

Dr Radha Narayan (RN) - Consultant AVM Whittington
 Emily Brooks (EB) - QTOD, CI at RNENT UCLH
 Meera Sebastianpillai (MS) - Paediatric Lead Audiology, Whittington Health
 Jeanette Martin (JM) - Lead TOD with CI Team at GOSH
 Cherry Bloss (CB) – Specialist Speech and Language Therapist - Deafness

INTRODUCTION

CK – All members introduced themselves.
 AO – Volunteered to take minutes.

REVIEW ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Action – RF** – A5 size QR code pamphlet to be designed to be shared by professionals/put up on noticeboards.
 - Completed. CK to follow up with RNENT as not present at meeting to ask them to distribute in clinic.
- **Action – all members** – Volunteers needed for establishing a focus group looking at extra-curricular activities.
 - AM - need more parents and families to be engaged/provide feedback in order to drive change. Need to know if this a significant issue for parents. Some organisations for deaf children e.g., St John's, don't share information as widely. Access to information is an issue.
 - JW - suggestion for an additional one-off CHSWG session to join up dots/map out to see what is available.
 - KMc – lots of families joining BN do not know about the NDCS

- KM – the information is shared at the ABR appointment and is in different languages.
- Sensory Support Service to highlight what is available for children and families and support from the NDCS during visits.
- Target parent representatives and information sharing from organisations discussed.
- **Action – HB** - Share CHSWG contact details for advice on inclusion of health commissioners.
 - Trying to put CHSWG on the map - may be best to do as a North Central London CSHWG strategically (Barnet, Enfield and Haringey) to reach out to commissioners and raise awareness of hearing services. ICS need to work out which commissioners they want to get involved, may ask for minutes to be shared etc.
 - When developing CHSWG action plans, how do we make sure we are using parallel language to health commissioners i.e., health inequalities.
 - Barnet CHSWG has reached out to commissioners who are now open to receiving minutes.
 - CK to take this back to NCL CHSWG for collective action.
- **Action – BSL group** – Seek feedback from Emma Illiffe and Signature.
 - Explore access post-16.
 - Explore options for inviting Emma or another tutor to the next CHSWG.
 - Carry over to new term.
- **Action – HB** - Send link for NDCS BSL classes and for NDCS survey.
 - Completed.
- **Action – CK** – Finalise and send out BSL resource list.
 - CK to distribute. Has been reviewed by Deaf Instructors.
- **Action – all members** – Look at terminology at next CHSWG to build into action plan and ToR.
 - See today's agenda.

Action – BS

Sensory support team to highlight NDCS offer at regular opportunities beyond initial visit.

Action – clinics

Display QR poster in public areas.

Action – CK

Coordinate sharing of information amongst members for support groups/clubs/activities.

Action – CK

Share minutes/information with health commissioners.

Action – CK

Invite representative from ABSLTA – Association of British Sign Language Teachers and Assessors.

SERVICES UPDATES

- Sensory Support Team (BS) - person has verbally accepted position on fixed term contract for a year, going through employment checks. Planned to start in September 2023.

- JW – responded to query about the offer of online BSL courses from NDCS – is the NDCS considering increasing capacity as currently a waiting list for families (0-3, 4-7)? JW to find out more.

Action – JW

Update on NDCS offer to be shared.

STRATEGIC CHSWG

- Information shared at previous meeting. No relevant updates. Further information will be shared following the next meeting.

BSL WORKING GROUP

- Suggestions:
 - o Link to a survey for more engagement from parents.
 - o “You said, we did” - to show outcome of sharing feedback – get message across of impact (poster).
 - o Need to increase understanding of what is CHSWG.
 - o Hosting events.
 - o Have a subgroup around communicating with parents.
 - o Need to consider parent/professional capacity.
 - o Sharing information with existing networks e.g., CF – Enfield ‘Our Voice’ newsletter containing information.
 - o NLDCS - referrals coming in frequently from Barnet. Haringey and Enfield team to remind parents about the NLDCS.
 - o Linking meetings with an event (e.g., story telling).
 - o Professionals to come to NLDCS event to connect with parents.

Action – all members

All services to push engagement with parent group.

Action – BS

Sensory Support Team to remind parents about NLDCS events. Could QTODs attend any?

TERMINOLOGY AND LANGUAGE USE

- Groups / breakout rooms used to develop a document for Haringey and Enfield. Some discussion documented below:
 - o Hearing Impairment Resources Bases are now Deaf Resource Bases – this indicates overall acceptance of new technology.
 - o Term Disability e.g., DLA. Disability still used in some contexts. Perhaps needs to be acknowledged? Hesitation from families as unsure if they are entitled or can apply.
 - o PSHI register- still referred to as HI.
 - o On EHCPs still area of need is identified as HI.
 - o KM - worried that by using term deaf that the family may disengage.
 - o Need to prioritise information sharing to explain the spectrum of deafness
 - o Discussion about different cultures and perspectives. In many cultures, deafness means profoundly deaf.
 - o Hospitals to identify and acknowledge different cultures and their language preferences – while maintaining the use of deaf on formal communications.

- Difficult balance during the identification process of letting families know that there might be deafness but not having them worry unconditionally. Ties into deafness being an inherently bad thing. Why?
- Hospitals to support access to the social model of deafness as well as the medical – this is possible with the use of this more positive language.
- Using the word deaf may allow families to go away and find positive role models for themselves.
- This idea of ‘softening’ the identification. Why is impaired softer? Why, when deaf adults tell you it is offensive and negative – the word impairment means weakened or damaged – is this softer and more palatable to hearing parents?

Action – CK

Ideas to be pulled together for a draft document about terminology, which can be reviewed by members at the next meeting.

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

- Option of chairing open to all members. None volunteered but members should email CK if interested. CK to continue if no other interest.
- Agreement by all to continue with remote meetings.

AOB

- Feedback from parents: there are concerns about the way EHCPs are being updated and the length of time between an annual review meeting and updated plan. CK has spoken with the manager of the Statutory Assessment Team in Haringey. A representative can attend the next meeting.
- Next year’s meeting dates:
 - **7th November 2023**
 - **27th February 2024**
 - **11th June 2024**

Next Meeting

Tuesday 7TH November 2023 – 9.30 – 11.30am. A link will be shared.

End.