

Berkshire CHSWG
Minutes from Meeting- 15/11/2022 12:30-14:00

In attendance

Adrian Chrimes	Kennet Lead ToD	Achrimes@kennetschool.co.uk
Alice Walker	Kennet ToD	AWalker@kennetschool.co.uk
Alison Hughes	Head of Emmbrook resource base	ahughes@emmbrook-inf.wokingham.sch.uk
Alison Skinner	Parent Rep	Alison.skinner@ndcs.org.uk
Annette Tagoe	Slough - Children with disabilities	Annette.Tagoe@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk
Chandni Tank	Langley Academy ToD	Chandni.Tank@langleyacademy.org
Christine Rocca	Guys / St Thomas Implant team	Christine.Rocca@gstt.nhs.uk
Constantina Georga	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Constantina.georga@nhs.net
Dr Katie Ireland	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Katie.ireland@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Eizabeth Parker	Southampton Implant team Ed Aud	E.A.Parker@soton.ac.uk
Elizabeth Andersson	ENT nurse	elizabeth.andersson@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Emma Conquer	Parent	
Gail Ditchfield	ToD Team Lead, BSCS	Gail.ditchfield@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Hannah Brown	NDCS Local Engagement	Hannah.Brown@ndcs.org.uk
Helen Begbie	SaLT	Helen.begbie@berkshire.nhs.uk
Helen Kirkham	WBC Disability Team	Helen.kirkham@westberks.gov.uk
Jane Peters	Head of Service, BSCS	Jane.peters@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Jill Morell	SaLT	Jill.Morrell@berkshire.nhs.uk
Kirstie Booth	Paediatric Lead KEVII Audiology	Kirstie.Booth@berkshire.nhs.uk
Lisa Bull	Educational Audiologist, BSCS	Lisa.bull@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Maggie Dutton	Head of HRB Westwood Farm School	mdutton@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk
Rebecca Griffiths	SALT	Rebecca.Griffiths@berkshire.nhs.uk
Sam Barnard	BDCS	sambarnardx@gmail.com
Valerie Holdich	NHSP	Valerie.holdich@nhs.net
Many thanks to our two interpreters Rosanna and Brett.		

Apologies

Abby Martin	School Health Assistant	Abby.martin@berkshire.nhs.uk
Ali McMaster	Newborn Hearing Screening	Ali.McMaster@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Ani Sahakian	Clinical Scientist RBH Audiology	Ani.sahakian@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Arusa Ashraf	Langley Academy ToD	Arusa.Ashraf@langleyacademy.org
Dr Hazel Needham	Paediatrician	hazel.needham@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Helen Farthing	DEAF CAMHS	Helen.farthing@nhs.net
Louise Dix	Advanced SLT for HI	Louise.dix@berkshire.nhs.uk
Lucy Rodd	Audiology KEVII	
Lucy Wardlaw	ENT nurse - RBH	lucy.wardlaw@royalberhsire.nhs.uk
Mary Richards	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Mary.richards@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Nikki Donegan	Social Services, Slough	Nikki.Donegan@scstrust.co.uk
Rakesh Tailor	East Paediatrician - Hearing loss lead	Rakesh.Tailor@berkshire.nhs.uk
Ruth Hill	Health Visitor, Wokingham	Ruth.Hill@berkshire.nhs.uk
Vinita Sharma	Paediatrician, East Berks	vinita.sharma@berkshire.nhs.uk

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th June have been reviewed and no amendments were needed.

It was lovely to welcome several new attendees to the meeting today including a new parent and our new NDCS local engagement officer. We had also hoped to welcome the East Berkshire paediatrician who is now leading on hearing loss but unfortunately he was called away just before the meeting.

There have been a number of changes within the health visitor team and currently we do not have any representatives from that department.

Feedback of progress and next steps from the breakout groups in the June meeting.

1. Hearing the Deaf CYP and families voice - review of survey questions and timeline of use

Discussion

- It is appreciated that all services conduct surveys across the year but it is also important that we can collect the parent / student voices.
- Alison Skinner has designed two surveys - a primary and a secondary version
- 3 schools have fed back on the survey at this point.
- There may have been some mis-communication about the survey
- An electronic method of completing the survey was felt to be a good way forward although depending on the format this may make it more challenging to complete if there are several children in one setting
- We need to ensure that the questions on the survey help to identify areas that we can focus on to improve the experiences of deaf CYP
- Jane Peters highlighted that Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service sends out an annual survey that goes to all schools, parents and children supported by the service. There is a preschool and school age version. We all send out surveys following events.
- Perhaps a link to the survey on reports from different services may work.
- We need to agree how long the survey will run for and when this is likely to go out.
- Thanks were expressed to Alison Skinner for getting the work started with the survey formats.
- How could we reach the older CYP directly if they are able to complete the survey on their own.

Agreed Actions

- Gail to email CHSWG group to ask for volunteers for this working group and to arrange a member of the BSCS team to attend.
- Creation of a separate working group to take this forward with a maximum of 8 people to include Alison Skinner, representatives from audiology, BSCS and other key services.
- Working group membership to be agreed within the next 4 weeks and date for first meeting arranged.

2. School Nurse Screening - update from meeting with school nurse team

Feedback

- Access to screening different across Berkshire
- W. Berks / Bracknell - screening offered to every school entrant
- Reading / Wokingham - questionnaire to opt in to school hearing screening
- RBWM - Offered to all but only taken up where there are concerns
- Slough - Everyone tested and this is leading to a high level of referrals and a high DNA rate for Audiology appointments. This is being looked into as it is felt there may be issues around test conditions.
- Alison Skinner raised concerns about the possibility of children slipping through the net if not offered to all. Suggestion made to explore further with NDCS to establish the national picture. Hannah Brown is happy to discuss further outside of the meeting.
- Abby Martin, Julia Lamming and Karen Jacobs have met with RBH to look at the questionnaire being used and to make adjustments to the wording, e.g. working in conjunction with Louise Dix to add in questions about speech and language development.
- Looking at sending out a newsletter to the whole of Berkshire relating to Speech and Language Therapy and hearing. It is hoped this will help with improving the questionnaire and referral rates where needed. It may be possible to extend this to RBWM.
- The letter to health was also discussed. This requires a medical lead and liaison with Hannah Brown.

Actions

- To liaise with Hazel Needham / Rakesh Tailor (lead paediatricians for east and west Berkshire) over the letter to health.

Review of actions from previous meeting

Actions from previous meeting	Update	Ongoing / completed
KEVII audiology to confirm status of East Berks LAs with regard to hearing screening as part of school entry.	See above notes	Completed
Liaise with Abby Martin (School Health Assistant, CHSWG member) / Julia Lamming (Professional Development Lead School Nursing & Immunisation (school aged) Services Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to adapt the question in the health screening questionnaire. Lead Katie / Ani (RBH Audiology)	See above notes	Completed
Write a letter of concern to the individual unitary authority public health commissioner. This will need to be passed by Dr Hazel Needham's manager for any W Berkshire LA's. Request support from ENT colleagues also.	To be actioned. Also update and explore with new east Berks paediatrician with deafness lead - Rakesh Tailor	Ongoing
Alison to draft surveys for children aged 5 - 15 and share at next meeting.	See notes above	
Gail to liaise with the resource bases to see what questions are being	Email to be sent	Ongoing

asked as part of the annual review process		
--	--	--

Parental Feedback

Alison Skinner reported that there was no new feedback from parents but feels that it would be good to revisit feedback from the last few meetings to ensure that there were no outstanding actions. One such area is the use of positive language.

Jane Peters fed back that BSCS has reviewed its use of terminology and made changes and a statement on this is due to be added to the website. This has also been flagged with Local Authorities but they are required to follow the lead from the Department for Education.

Alison also raised the issue around access for deaf children and young people to have full access to mainstream clubs and activities.

Alison Skinner thanked the BDCS committee for their work in organising different events for families.

Emma Conquer, who joined us for the first time this meeting, felt that it had been very interesting and informative and have been pleased with the services they have received since diagnosis.

Actions from previous meeting	Notes	Ongoing / completed
Local offers not always easily locatable across the 6 unitary authorities	BSCS met with LAs and Local Offers being updated.	completed 16/3/22
Access to emergency audiology services out of area.	Letter written to audiology department that did not provide support. Response shared at previous meeting.	completed 16/3/22
Moving towards using positive language	BSCS terminology statement and changes made to job titles and paperwork. SLT have reviewed terminology used. Raised with LAs but they	Ongoing

	are expected to use DfE terminology.	
Equality of LA transport policies across Berkshire		
Access to appointments at audiology after school hours	Feedback given to parent. For RBH, repair appointments are available out of school hours, afternoon appointments are available at the RBH BRK clinic.	Completed 14/6/22
Frequency of new ear moulds for older children when these may still fit but have become very discoloured.	RBH to offer at least annually - SOPs updated and disseminated.	Completed 14/6/22
Delays in radio aid fitting / provision of reports.	Update provided by Jane Peters 16/3/22. BSCS parent information sessions to develop understanding of the packages available.	Completed 16/3/22

BDCS Feedback

A number of events have taken place. Feedback from children who have had the opportunity to meet other deaf children, perhaps for the first time, has been very positive.

Katie Ireland reported that they often get to hear about the events from families when they visit audiology.

There are a number of events coming up including a driving event for 10 - 18 year olds, 2 trips to pantomimes (Reading and London), ice skating and a Christmas party. BDCS are trying to target a wide range of ages but appreciate there is not as much aimed at babies.

Swimming lessons were discussed. The pool and instructor previously used are no longer an option but if there is a demand they can explore this. Alternatives were discussed including Disability Swimming at Braywick where there is 1:1 instruction. Emma Conquer reported that Hydrokidz swimming classes had been successful.

Families are encouraged to register with BDCS using the website. Professionals can also register by emailing Berkstdcs@gmail.com and they will send a link.

Resource base Feedback

Maggie Dutton reported that children from the resource bases had met in June and had been a good opportunity for the children to meet up.

Professionals Feedback

Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service

- We are currently fully staffed. We have one ToD in training and our new QToD joined us in September.
- We have had a comparatively high number of new referrals so far this academic year. Referrals from audiology departments beyond our two main hospitals seem to be coming through more smoothly and we continue to work on building these links.
- Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service celebrates 25 years of the joint Local Authority arrangement this year.
- Jane ran 2 parental information sessions (one morning and one evening) about how our service works and our packages of support. The feedback was positive. We are looking to run additional sessions next term.

Multiprofessional support focus

1. Joint working with SLT on joint reporting.
2. Joint working with Health Visitors around the 2 year old checks where we are involved.

Speech and Language Therapy

- BHFT Guidance is back to wearing Masks for home visits- we have a good supply of clear masks, 2 different sorts.
- Recently for some Education, Health and Care Plan requests, the most recent speech and language therapy advice has not been included into draft Plan- information has been drawn from a previous plan. The LA involved is keen to put this right when contacted, but we are working to understand why this has happened and to avoid this.
- The CYPIT Mainstream SLT Team continues to run training for mainstream school staff online, staff from Hearing Resource Bases have attended and feedback has been positive. They plan to run one around the potential impact of glue ear on speech and language and are liaising with Louise Dix about it.

Multiprofessional support focus

1. Review how joint report writing is currently working/how we can proceed with this in future

University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service

- Clinic capacity back to normal. Making good progress in seeing patients whose reviews were delayed/postponed during 2020-21.
- Currently still encouraging face masks and social distancing in the waiting area but optional in the clinic rooms. Any masks worn by staff are either clear or have clear panels.
- Recruiting another SaLT. Interviews 16/11/22.
- BCHI surgical offer is expanding for adults – will now include MEI (middle ear implants), Bonebridge and Osia for those meeting candidacy criteria. To be considered for older teens on a case by case basis. Suitability for younger CYP to be considered at a later stage.

Royal Berkshire Hospital - Audiology

- Audiology has been exceptionally busy recently with unprecedented pressure on services due to increased numbers of NHSP screening and increased number of births. However all babies have been seen within the 4 week target.
- Recruitment is taking place for a new NHSP manager as the previous one left in August.
- NHSP team have faced challenges and there is currently a backlog. One person is currently being trained.
- Ani is working on the transition day to take place at Mary Hare school later in the year. The date is to be confirmed and they are hoping the NDCS roadshow bus will be able to attend.

NDCS

- CHSWG updates have been sent with these minutes
- The applications for Family Sign Language Courses open on the 21st November 2022.
- <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/our-events/>

NHSP - Wexham Park

- NHSP screening continues as before
- There has been an influx of referrals sent on to audiology
- Val announced she will be retiring but a successor has been lined up in preparation for a seamless transition.
- Val thanked everyone for the support and work over the years she has been in post.

Guys and St Thomas Implant Centre

- The service is currently working with a blended service model
- A range of groups are offered including for transition between paediatric and adult services.

- Training for ABI is available and there is also an online support group
- The BEARs (Both EARs) project will be moving out nationally in January.

Recruitment of next CHSWG chairs / additional members

- Katie and Gail, Co-chairs of the Pan Berkshire CHSWG group request that any members interested in taking on the role of chair going forwards make contact. The role of chair is to be passed on every couple of years and any member of the CHSWG can take on this role.
- If anyone knows of appropriate interested parties who would like to join the CHSWG group please let us know and this can be explored further.

Focus of the next meeting

- We have asked Chris Rocca (Guys and St Thomas Implant team) to talk about the BEARs (Both EARs) project.

Dates for future meetings

Tuesday 21st March 2022 12.30 - 2.00

Tuesday 20th June 2022 12.30 - 2.00

Minutes taken by Gail Ditchfield