

Berkshire CHSWG
Minutes from Meeting- 23/11/2021 12:30-14:00

Apologies

Ali McMaster	Newborn Hearing Screening	Ali.McMaster@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Joanna Wanmer	Local Engagement Officer, NDCS	joanna.wanmer@ndcs.org.uk
Catriona Bryant	Paediatric Lead, RBH Audiology	Catriona.Bryant@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Constantina Georga	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Constantina.georga@nhs.net
Mary Richards	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Mary.richards@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Nikki Donegan	Social Services, Slough	Nikki.Donegan@scstrust.co.uk

Attendees

	Name	Role Organisation	Best Email Address
1.	Helen Farthing	DEAF CAMHS	Helen.farthing@nhs.net
2.	Louise Viney	NDCS representative	
3.	Ruth Hill	Health Visitor, Wokingham	Ruth.Hill@berkshire.nhs.uk
4.	Jill Morell	SaLT	Jill.Morrell@berkshire.nhs.uk
5.	Rosanna + Rebecca	Interpreters	
6.	Lisa Bull	Educational Audiologist, BSCS	Lisa.bull@achievingforchildren.org.uk
7.	Louise Dix	Advanced SLT for HI	Louise.dix@berkshire.nhs.uk
8.	Sam Barnard	BDCS	sambarnardx@gmail.com
9.	Alison Skinner	Parent Rep	Alison.skinner@ndcs.org.uk

10 .	Jane Peters	Head of Service, BSCS	Jane.peters@achievingforchildren.org.uk
11 .	Elizabeth Andersson	ENT nurse	elizabeth.andersson@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
12 .	Ani Sahakian	Clinical Scientist RBH Audiology	Ani.sahakian@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
13 .	Helen Kirkham	WBC Disability Team	Helen.kirkham@westberks.gov.uk
14 .	Valerie Holdich	NHSP	Valerie.holdich@nhs.net
15 .	Abby Martin	School Health Assistant	Abby.martin@berkshire.nhs.uk
16 .	Dr Katie Ireland	Clinical Scientist, RBH Audiology	Katie.ireland@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
	Gail Ditchfield	Team Lead BSCS	Gail.ditchfield@achievingforchildren.org.uk

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18	Helen Begbie	SaLT	Helen.begbie@berkshire.nhs.uk
19	Dr Jenny Chopra	Paediatrician	Jenny.Chopra@berkshire.nhs.uk
20	Dr Hazel Needham	Paediatrician	hazel.needham@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
21	Maggie Dutton	Head of HRB Westwood Farm School	mdutton@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk
22	Kirstie Booth	Paediatric Lead KEVII Audiology	Kirstie.Booth@berkshire.nhs.uk
23	Rebecca Griffiths	SALT	Rebecca.Griffiths@berkshire.nhs.uk
24	Arusa Ashraf	Head of HRB Langley Academy	Arusa.Ashraf@langleyacademy.org
25	Natalia	SaLT student	

Parent feedback (Alison Skinner)

1. The Local Offers across the Berkshire authorities are not consistently easily locatable.

Jane Peters feedback that some of the Local Offers had fallen off the LA websites. BSCS has met with each LA and their websites are now being updated and should be completed by Christmas

2. Are emergency Audiology services accessible across the UK? For example if a child needed tubing for their earmould, should they be able to go to any Service in the country to access this? This had proven challenging for a family over the summer break.

Feedback from our local Audiology Services

East Berks- People holiday in Windsor and on occasion KEVII has provided 'emergency' supplies when needed

West Berks- Reading would also provide emergency accessories, such as tubing, batteries etc

Action point- CHSWG could write a letter to the local trust where this occurred

3. A West Berks family feel that they are not fully aware of what is on offer from all the Services in their area. Please see Jane Peters' feedback in point 1.

4. Use of terminology: Hearing Impairment. Some parents have feedback that they would like more positive language to be used. NDCS Moving Towards Using Positive Language document.

Action point: Alison Skinner will share this document with CHSWG

5. One family feedback that different Local Authorities in Berkshire have different travel policies. For example, if a child has an EHCP travel should be covered for after school activities

Sam Barnard (BDCS)

Sometimes when a family receives a letter from the hospital it is not clear what the appointment is for. Could this be addressed so that a parent understands what type of appointment they are bringing their child to

BDCS

- One new committee member
- All events have been re-started
- Trip to the cinema to see Eternals, subtitled
- Christmas extravaganza- at Four Kingdoms
- Christmas party this weekend
- Hexagon Pantomime- signed performance 120 people have signed up!
- TVAP and Camp Mohawk events
- Poetry painting day for Mothers Day
- Pantomime in London in the new year
- New families are generally not joining, on average BDCS see one a month or every two months. Please promote BDCS in your meetings with families

Service Updates

ENT

- Waiting time 6-8 weeks
- Lots of Paediatric recovery clinics
- Virtual appointments and F2F
- ENT adults are now in Henley- Townlands. Some of the Paed appts will be in Henley (Mr Flannery)
- Only 2 clinics will be in Reading going forward- need to monitor the outcome of the move- concerned about DNA rates from families that do not want to travel to Henley

NDCS (Louise Viney)

- Lots of courses coming up- check website
- Parents as Partners Feb 2022 (every 6 weeks)
- 30th November - sleep issues
- 8th Dec- exploring your child's Deaf Identity

- January- March- 2 short courses- communication and behaviour (6 weeks each)
- Deaf role models in healthcare 24th Nov
- College, University and You (one for 13+ and one for 18+)
- Lets work it out- 30th Nov for professionals working with older young people
- Feedback from the Ready Study
- Autumn CHSWG update- share with families

Catch up funding

- Jane Peters- has asked ToDs to ensure that schools are offering this catch up funding is targeted for deaf CYP
- As a Sensory Support Service we are unable to access this funding- JP has asked! Nationally the answer is no- the money goes directly into schools
- We have not had any CYP requesting to do another year/repeat a year
- We have run some specialist workshops for CYP applying for University/Gap Year/ Apprenticeships. This is now in the BSCS programme for June, annually

School nursing (Abby Martin)

- School hearing screening
 - Reading and Wokingham- referral only
 - West Berks- still seeing all children for hearing screening at 5 years
 - Bracknell- routinely do hearing and vision screening
 - RBWM and Slough- **Jane Peters will confirm**

Health Visiting (Ruth Hill)

- F2F 2 year checks up and running again

BSCS (Gail Ditchfield, Jane Peters, Lisa Bull)

- All visits are now F2F
- Chatty Monkeys F2F- East and West and Newbury Stay and Play
- New referrals- dipped over the covid period, but now are coming through very quickly

- Family Day- July 2022, date and more information to follow
- Social separation for school starters has been challenging- teachers and parents are reporting this
- SEND Inspection in Slough- BSCS highly praised
- Sign Language- BSCS are trialling an external sign language provider (Little Signs) for bespoke packages for signing at home with very young children. BSCS will feedback to CHSWG once we have reviewed the success of the trial
- During the last Academic Year (2020-2021) Radio aid provision in Berkshire was over 100 radio aids issued for the first time. This was due to the enormous difficulties posed by online learning for deaf children. This milestone was recognised at local and national level in the press and professional articles

HRB

Langley Academy (Arusa Ashraf)

- Literacy and numeracy interventions are happening at school, which the HRB children access, mostly Year 7 and 8 students

Westwood Farm (Maggie Dutton)

- Catch up funding is available in the school- not aware that it is being accessed by HRB children

DeafCAMHS (Helen Farthing)

- Google Deafcamhs -it is not clear how to access the Service. It is highlighted as Black Country Health care. Please can hospitals, SaLT, BSCS refer as and when necessary. Please ensure that parents know where to look
- Dr Needham: "Do DeafCAMHS do Autism assessments?"
Helen- "Yes we do the assessments and work with the local team and parents too. Refer into us from the website"

West Berks Disability Team (Helen Kirkham)

- Continuing to take referrals and do visits to clients as usual
- Social Care- equality of access across Berkshire- needs to be looked at

SaLT (Louise Dix)

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- Just wearing masks now. Full PPE has been removed
- SaLT students- very grateful to families and BSCS and HRB's who enable and support these visits
- Joint reports with ToD colleagues- EHCP reports. Well received by LAs
- Joint training opportunities with ToDs in Nurseries- not happening as yet, but this is down to limited numbers in nurseries and some Covid restrictions
- ENT clinics- Henley clinics- not sure what this means for Berkshire SaLT as yet

East Berks SaLT (Helen Begbie)

- Have to wear aprons again in the East
- Referral rate has increased

West Berks Audiology, RBH (Ani Sahakian)

Feedback provided in appendix

Action: School questionnaire for self referral- need to look at this as a CHSWG

East Berks Audiology, KEVII (Kirstie Booth)

- Referral rates are back up, although school age a little bit down
- No waiting lists
- Meeting with Phonak re moving to Marvels going forward

NHSP (Val Holdich)

- Wexham have new equipment
- Screening figures are excellent
- Ali McMaster at RBH is extremely short of screening staff. Within target time but quite challenging. Ali is having to use her management time screening on the wards
- There is an increase in referrals

Paediatrics, West Berks (Dr Hazel Needham)

- Most work is F2F, sometimes virtual
- Lots of new diagnoses and progressive hearing losses at the moment

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- Increased genetics testing
- Reminder, in terms of Paediatrics

East Berks is Bracknell, Slough and Maidenhead

West Berks is West Berks, Reading and Wokingham

Date of next CHSWG meeting tbc

Minutes taken by Lisa Bull