

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2020

Local Engagement Team Update

First of all we would like to say a big thank you to all services who have been working in their local community over the last few months. We know this has been making a huge difference to the lives of deaf children, young people and their families during this time.

The full Local Engagement Team is now looking forward to working actively with CHSWGs to support local services and multi-agency working throughout the autumn term. We recognise the challenges that services face in responding and adapting to COVID 19. With this in mind, we recently shared an Action Plan template which we hope CHSWGs will find useful to provide a clear framework to support services and CHSWGs in their continuing work.

The Local Engagement team will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID on deaf children's support, to share examples of positive practice and signpost services to useful advice and support. In response, we will be sending out a briefing in the next few days which reports on provision during lockdown and understanding the impact of COVID as some restrictions change.

Other news for Services

Education

Returning to school

We've worked with the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf and the National Sensory Impairment Partnership to develop guidance for professionals on issues to consider in any risk assessments around the return to school and colleges post-lockdown. We have also produced open letters that Teachers of the Deaf and services can use as appropriate. Read it on our [website](#).

We also have a [back to school checklist for parents](#).

Making remote learning accessible

Separately, we have also produced some [tips for teachers](#) on making remote learning and teaching accessible.

Face masks in education

Our position paper on the use of face masks and coverings in education sets out the importance of making reasonable adjustments to ensure deaf children and young people are not disadvantaged. [Read more](#).

FOIs September 2020

On 28 September, we will be sending out an FOI to all Local Authorities in England to ascertain any impact COVID-19 has had upon the education service for deaf children in your local authorities. We will be seeking information to determine any relevant changes to the staffing, provision and budgets in the area.

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Audiology	
Social Care	Are You Ok? We have been acutely aware of the likely impact Covid-19 has had on deaf children and young people and their families' emotional health and well-being, and where possible we have raised our concerns through formal responses to government consultations. In August, in co-production with Deaf CAMHS we launched an online survey, Are You Ok? to gather the views of deaf young people during lockdown. We hope this survey can provide important evidence to campaign for policy makers and service providers to ensure they consider the impact of Covid-19 on deaf children and young people and their families when considering the support they may need.
Early Years	Success from the start The Early Support Monitoring Protocol, a developmental resource for children aged 0-3, has been updated as a new online resource for parents and professionals. Join our 2020 conference - Starting Out: Supporting Deaf Babies, Children and their Families in the Early Years Join us online, on 24 November 2020 for our annual conference, where we will bring together leaders and practitioners to share and discuss the importance of supporting families of deaf children (0–7 years). You will also hear about personal experiences first hand from families of deaf children. Some of the speakers include Professor Bencie Woll, Evelien Dirks and Professor Gwen Carr. Topics will include language and communication development, emotional and social development, and empowering families. You can book your place now.
Post 14	Beating unemployment We are concerned about what this coronavirus crisis will mean for deaf young people leaving education and their employment prospects. They may now be up against a double barrier - a lack of jobs as well as the discrimination they have always faced. This is why we got involved with the Youth Employment Group, a coalition of organisations focusing on the impact of pandemic on the employment prospects of young people. Read more on our website.

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Technology	Borrow to Buy scheme re-opened Through the Borrow to Buy scheme service families can borrow Phonak radio aids, streamers and soundfield systems for up to 60 days. At the end of the 60 day loan period, they can choose to buy the product or simply return it to us. The Borrow to Buy scheme will run as it did before, but with two small changes: 1. We have updated our terms and conditions to ask that both a family and their supporting professional review the manufacturer's cleaning guidance before applying. This will make sure that the products are properly sanitised with cleaning solutions that won't invalidate a product's warranty. 2. We will be sending a packet of cleaning wipes with every loan to help people get started, and to make sure that radio aids can be used as soon as they are delivered.
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Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns

Clear face masks

We want to see clear face masks become more widely and readily available - here are some pointers on what to look out for and where to buy. [Read more.](#)

Latest developments on face masks

Our coronavirus blog for professionals sets out the latest from the UK Governments on face masks and coverings. [Find out more.](#)

Research

Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) reports

The [2019 reports from the annual CRIDE surveys](#) of services are now out, setting out the latest figures on numbers of deaf children and specialist staff.

Pragmatics research

We've funded the University of Manchester to carry out research to help develop new resources around the pragmatic and social communication skills of deaf children. Input from Teachers of the Deaf and parents is needed to help shape this research. Read more about it [here](#).

We are READY! (And we've made some changes!)

You will have heard about our exciting READY research – Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth. This is a longitudinal study being conducted by the University of Manchester and University of Edinburgh, aiming to help us better understand how to support positive outcomes for deaf young people as they become adults. We've extended the recruitment timeline for this research, with the aim of recruiting at least 300 participants. We've also widened the eligibility criteria on age. To sign up, a young person must a) have a permanent hearing loss, b) live in England, Scotland or Wales and c) must be aged 15-19. (If 15, they must be 16 before the end of June 2021.) In addition, COVID-19 will have an impact on our cohort and we can possibly expect very different results in some measures due to this – to address that, only data from before

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12 March 2020 will be used in our first wave report and in future reports we will be able to look at any patterns linked to COVID-19.

READY has the potential to be ground-breaking and to provide vital information on how we can all best support deaf young people to transition through to adulthood. The findings from the year one report, will be shared over the coming months. The continuation of this important research rests on the recruitment and retention of deaf young people into the study, so please signpost any young people you know to [find out more](#) and to [sign up](#).

Resources – new, updated, out of date

Online learning opportunities

Our [Raising a Deaf Child Facilitator training](#) is now available as an online workshop. Our upcoming training in October will enable you to discover a wealth of ideas and strategies to improve the way you support parents and carers of Deaf children and young people. Our [Healthy Minds training](#) is also now available as an online workshop. Our upcoming training in November will enable you to discover how to run activities to help support the emotional health and wellbeing of deaf children and young people.

What's new?

- [Deaf-friendly teaching: Further education](#)
- [Success from the start: A developmental resource for families of deaf children aged 0-3](#)
- [Cochlear implants: Guide for families](#)
- [Hearing aids: Guide for families](#)
- [Families magazine](#) (autumn)

Events and Support for parents, deaf children and young people

Online events for families

Following the success of our range of online events since March this year, we continue a wide array of different events for families to join. These range from “Supporting parents new to hearing loss”, “Navigating Benefits”, “Education and home learning” to “Boosting your child’s self-esteem”. We are responding to family’s needs by offering times during the day, evenings and weekends, and provide events for families with children from birth to 18. [Find out more](#).

Training opportunity for parents

We’ll be offering our well established “Parents as Partner’s” workshops online for parents and carers who are currently involved, or would like to be involved in being a parent representative at their local CHSWG. The workshop is designed to help them understand the importance of their role at a CHSWG meeting and to build their confidence to really take part. Please share with your current or any prospective parent representative’s to help improve parent involvement. [Find out more](#).

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Contact with NDCS

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk