

CHILDRENS HEARING SERVICES WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Wednesday 30 November 2022  
14:00 -15.30 MS Teams

**1. Present**

Justine Sweet (JS)	General Manager & Head of Audiology, KHFT
Kim Archary (KA)	Audiology Team Leader, KHFT
Clare Beak (CB)	Audiology Team Leader, KHFT
Alison Poxon (AP)	Local NHSP Manager, SWL
Sue Knowles (SK)	Educational Audiologist, KHFT
Joanna Wanmer (JW)	Local Engagement Officer, NDCS
Rebecca Richards (RR)	TOD, Knollmead Primary School
Jon Filkin (JF)	Consultant Paediatrician
Helen Joseph (HJ)	Manager, Achieving for Children
Abbygail Field (AF)	CI Link and TOD Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital
Charlotte Crutchington (CC)	Parent representative and SDCS representative

**2. Apologies**

James Doran	Audiology Team Leader, KHFT
Jodie Fuller (JFu)	Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, Your Health Care CIC
Donna Bedford (DB)	Local NHSP Manager, East Surrey
Yasmin Young (YY)	Trainee Advisory Teacher of the Deaf, Achieving for Children
Hilary Hewitt (HH)	Antenatal & Newborn Screening Commissioning Manager
Mona Patel (MP)	ENT Specialist
Hannah Brown (HB)	Local Engagement Officer, NDCS
Karen Lowry (KL)	SEND & Local Offer Officer
Karen Cooke (KC)	Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, Your Health Care CIC
Charlotte Benson (CB)	Parent Representative
Claire Bedwell (CB)	Teacher for Hearing Impaired Children, PSSI
Gabi Stiles (GS)	SDCS and Skylarks Charity
Catherine Kelly (CK)	Teacher for Hearing Impaired, PSSI
Margot Perry (MP)	Assistant SWL NHSP Manager, SWL
Sien Vershelde (SV)	Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, Your Health Care CIC

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of last meeting were agreed.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Action Plan**

- SALT update – JF provided an email update
  - Therapy continues in the most appropriate setting for the child/young person and family.

- Remote support continues as requested/ required.
- Training in collaboration with wider service (ESSI and SRP's) is in discussion.
- Social Care update. Unable to close actions as unable to secure engagement from a social care partner. JW has reached out to deaf Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) VIA links with other CHSWG's however unable to secure commitment from CAHMS for regular attendance. CC shared that SDCS are linking with an external counsellor to support children 10+ years old. AF mentioned that GST have a clinical psychologist as part of the team that we could access by referring into the team. In the meantime, JW will reach out again to see if there is potentially a named contact to ask if they could attend our CHSWG to information share on an irregular basis or provide updates via email that could be cascaded at the meeting.  
**Action: JW**
- Parents and Young Persons involvement learning from other CHSWGs  
CC shared that getting young people to engage with a CHSWG meeting held during educational hours will be a challenge. She suggested looking at other ways to encourage engagement. JW mentioned West Surrey CHSWG have a sub-group that held a deaf inspiration day to encourage young person engagement, she is awaiting the feedback from this event. **Action: JW**
- BATOD & d/DTOD report 'Moving towards using positive language around Deafness / Hard of Hearing'  
Carried forward in JF's absence.

## 5. Services Update

### *Paediatrics Update*

- Jon Filkin, Consultant Paediatrician
  - For a while Richmond/Hounslow had no Audiological Physician and as a result there was an increase in referrals to Kingston for aetiology investigations. However, this has subsided as someone has been appointed to this position.
  - JF has increased time in his clinics to spend with parents and babies for aetiological investigation, this has improved service delivery.
  - Current wait time for an MRI under GA at SGH is 18-24 months, although any urgent requests would be conducted sooner than this if needed.

### *Education Services Update*

- Surrey PSSS: Claire Bedwell (provided via email)
  - We have two advisory teacher who are leaving at Christmas. We have interviewed for one of the posts and they will be starting in January. We are interviewing for the other post next week with a view to them starting after Easter. During that time their caseload will be shared amongst the other advisory teachers.
  - As mentioned before, we have moved over to a new workflow system so please be patient with us! SCC is now a paperless 'Digital Mail' organisation so all referrals must come via encrypted mail as post will not be picked up.
  - We are in process of revising our criteria and will circulate this to all clinics once ratified. It will be loaded onto the SCC PSS page with a link to an online referral form.
- Achieving for Children SWL: Helen Joseph

- Staffing is stable with no changes. However, HJ is planning a phased retirement. Her post is currently out for advert and she has no plans on leaving until a suitable replacement is in post.
- With SK retiring an Early Year's TOD role will now sit within achieving for children. This is out for advert. Interviews scheduled for January 2023.
- The play group is planned to reopen in January 2023. Meeting scheduled for early December to agree arrangements for this
- Knollmead Primary School: Rebecca Richards
  - The team are currently one TOD down but are managing the case load between the rest of the team.
  - No other changes to note.

*Audiology Update: Kim Archary*

- Staff changes
  - 3 band 6 posts are out for re-advert. Currently looking at oversea recruitment due to national shortages
  - No leavers this month.
- Waiting Times
  - Q1 wait time figures are within 4 weeks for NHSP screen referrals. Urgent referrals within target. However, routine referrals and follow ups are not being seen on target. The team continue to work evening and weekend shifts to compensate. Locum staff not available. Risk assessment of delays in patient care completed and, on the department and cluster risk register.
- East Surrey clinic location update
  - Commencement of clinics at the Orchard Centre has helped with the backlog in Surrey and we are operating 5 days a week from this location. Excellent feedback being received from parents regarding this new venue.
- New KH build update
  - Building is ongoing, current move in date is 17 April 2023.

*SWL NHSP Update: Alison Poxon*

- Next quarterly figures are due out on the 15 December.
- The team are nearly fully staffed, 1 member of the team has handed in their notice and another is due to retire soon.
- The targets for NH1 are creeping back up to pre-covid numbers.

*SAS NHSP Update: Donna Bedford*

Carried forward in Donna's absence.

*NDCS update: Joanne Wanmer*

- New ad campaign in association with Cadbury is ongoing.
- Work around the National SEND review is also ongoing.
- Position statement on access to sign language - JW will make this available to the group.
- Cride report for the past year will soon be available.

*SDCS update: Charlotte Crutchington*

- They have resumed taking the children out and doing activities which has been very positive and feedback from parents that it has been much needed for their children's well-being post covid.

- There is also a focus on supporting mental health of pre-teens and they are working with a counsellor to support these children.
- There has been a decline in the uptake of SLT which is being supported by Phillipa from GOSH.
- Christmas and New year activities have been planned and scheduled for the coming weeks.

**6. AOB:**

- SEND update: Justine Sweet
  - Between 4 October 2022 and 6 October 2022, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) revisited the area of Kingston upon Thames to decide whether sufficient progress has been made in addressing each of the areas of significant weakness detailed in the inspection report letter published on 6 November 2018. The area has made sufficient progress in addressing all four of the significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection.

Dates of next meetings

29 March 2023 - 14:00

12 July 2023 – 14:00

27 September 2023 – 14:00

29 November 2023 – 14:00