

CHSWG – 18 May 2021

MINUTES

Minute Taker: LL

**Action
by**

Those attending:

Jack Bowman	Nicola Bowman
Ginny Parker	Pip Harrison
Alison Lawson	Kate Johnston
Deborah Baker	Poppy Gilligan
Phil Kinghorn	Molly Kinghorn
Lindsay Short	Elaine Grant
Leigh Smyth	Jane Fairclough
Vicki Graham	

1 **Apologies:** Allison Cox

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2 **Welcome:**

. Introductions

3 **Updates from Services, Teams and Families:**

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Feedback from Jack Bowman (YP):

JB – Completed A levels in 2020 achieved 3 A*. At Durham University studying Finance and enjoying it. Jack said his biggest achievement was gaining his A levels after all the uncertainty due to Covid. His biggest challenge is moving out of home, he is in university accommodation at the moment but has a house from September. Jack was asked if he had any advice to the families joining CHSWG, he said to try to be as independent as possible, do not let your disability define you. He said he had had great support from his ToD Sue, who he met with regularly. He found her help around Disabled Students Allowance very beneficial. He found the technology fair that was held at Freeman hospital very beneficial and said more events like this will be brilliant.

KJ - said that she had diagnosed Jack when he was a few weeks old and told him she was super proud of everything he had achieved.

AL – said services need to get used to listening to deaf CYP – any ideas on getting them involved and views. Jack responded and said confidence can be gained from going to events like Kielder, Student council and meeting other deaf students. Also having older role models talking to younger ones.

GP – told Jack that Sue had retired, she also thanked Jack for coming to our meeting.

Sensory Support Service update:

GP – advised that the service is slowing getting back to normal, doing more visits. Most staff have been vaccinated. Risk assessments in place for visits. We are having limited office time as well as still working from home. Aware of covid on the wellbeing of CYP.

Northumberland SEND area inspection starting tomorrow.

SSS is now part of Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT) along with EAL and Portage Sharing office at Riverside.

Sue Mobberley ToD has now retired.
PH – Music group continuing, couple of schools staying on.
Annual audits due to go out.
JF – off on maternity in one month, Anna Williams SALT is covering maternity leave.

Newborn Hearing Screening:

LS advised that the referral rate continues to remain high, they are looking at patterns.
All venues open, staff are vaccinated.

Parents Representatives update:

NB – said the positive outcome from covid was that they were able to access services closer to home.

PK/MK - said that the boys were only 4 months when the lockdown started but all their meetings and appointments have been great and they feel that the processes have been quick.

Leigh S – TDCS (Tyneside deaf children's society) hopeful that they can set up outdoor meets come the summer holidays; she will circulate dates when they are available.

NERCIP (Cochlear Implant Programme):

PG – Staffing: a few posts are being advertised. Cochlear implant reviews are up to date. There has been a reduction in paediatric referrals. Backlog of paediatric patients waiting for surgery could be cleared by July. Continuing to work virtually at the moment, don't know when they will be working normally, they are being guided by the Trust Protocols.

Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS):

VG – still working from home, not doing home visits yet. Trying to raise awareness of the Service. Northumberland Disability Youth Forum set up, flyer will be shared with group.

Audiology update (KJ)

KJ – been seeing urgent patients throughout. New referral paediatrics caught up. Not quite met targets due to DNA's. Referral rates down a little bit. Postal repairs moving forward.

NDCS update:

AL – NDCS closed doors last March hoping to be open before July.
Online sessions – 4000 parents joined sessions on website. Hard copies of resources are locked in London office, download only.
Parents as partners course, next one 19th June 2021.
CHSWG Developing Professionals – running online from September.
Early Years Conference "Deaf works everywhere" post 14 – Info on website.

AL asked KJ about IQIPS (Improving Quality in Physiological Services) accreditation. KJ explained that this has not been a priority throughout the pandemic but something that Freeman would like to work towards in the future. Accreditation also has cost implications for the department.

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Developments for the next 12 months:

Social Care Pathways
Opportunities for families to meet

Some work supporting IQIPS accreditation

To ensure that CHSWG is effective and a forum for working together to improve improves outcomes for deaf children and their families in Northumberland

Date and Time of next meeting: Tues 19th October 2021 3.30-4.30pm

