

## CHSWG – 22nd October 2019

### MINUTES

**Minute Taker:** LL

**Action  
by**

Those attending:

Isabel Russell

Sara Morgan-Evans

Ginny Parker

Pip Harrison

Alison Lawson

Hannah Cobble

Sue Mobberley

Kate Johnson

Judith Cook

Vicki Graham

1. **Apologies:** Diane Tinnion

2. **Welcome:**  
Introductions

3. **Minutes and matters arising from 5th February 2018**

Read and agreed

4. **Update mailing list:** Done

5. **Parent Representatives:**

JC - advised that K did well at A Level, she got an A\* and 2 x B's, she is attending Newcastle College doing an Art Foundation Course and she absolutely loves it

6. **Sensory Support Service update**

IR - advised that SSS have completed the first half of the appraisal cycle. She also shared a shortened version of the SSS service development plan, this was looked at

IR - advised that PH has been working more with audiology due to staff sickness

IR - advised that we had only had a small number of new referrals since September

SM talked about North of Tyne meeting on 16.10.19

The three North of Tyne services are exploring ways to share resources (teachers) and equipment, and ensure consistency of provision that best supports students in post 16 FE settings

Alison Lawson shared the Gatsby benchmark Toolkit which gives practical careers and guidance for schools. The 3 North of Tyne services agreed to brainstorm with their staff on how Sensory Support Services can link into this and to produce a 'Guide' for teachers and other staff

Personal advisors within Northumberland will soon be able to link with students with EHCP plans to support transition.

Post school tracking was also deemed to be important by the group.

7. A Transition and Information evening is being held on Thursday 23rd October at Stannington village hall

***Audiology update (KJ)***

Criteria for Cochlear Implants has changed, therefore there are a lot more referrals. Cochlear Implant team are short in staff.

Update - Children with a conductive loss - if hearing gets worse parents will be given a decision making leaflet stating that they can either be fitted with hearing aids or fitted with grommets. The timescale for waiting for grommets can be lengthy as they have to be referred to ENT first which could take about 3 months and then there is a waiting time of another 3 months before surgery can take place. Kate said that as part of Audiology service improvement they are hoping to streamline the pathway so that an appointment with ENT would no longer be needed. She said that with specific training, audiologists would be able to refer for grommets and that would cut out the waiting time by about 3 - 4 months. This hasn't been approved yet

Staffing: Kate advised that she is still seconded into position as Head of Department until February 2020. Charlotte on maternity leave and will be back in February, also other members of staff on maternity leave.

GP asked if earwax removal has to be done by ENT, Kate said yes especially for paediatrics.

GP also asked if earmould impressions could be done at an outreach clinic. Kate said in theory yes but depends on the child's age, babies need to go to Freeman. Kate will send us a list of staff at these repair clinics.

**KJ**

PH - asked if equipment was lost in schools do we think it would be ok to ask schools to replace. Kate said yes in the first instance.

8. ***NDCS Autumn update report (AL)***

See attached document

9. ***AOB***

VG - informed us that there are SEND events in November for Yrs 10 + 11, she will send information

**VG**

IR - asked if Tuesday was still the better night to have our meetings? It was agreed to leave it to that day.

***Date and time of next meeting:***

Tuesday 4th February 2020, 4pm - 5.30pm Riverside Centre

