

CHSWG – 9th February 2021

MINUTES

Minute Taker: LL

**Action
by**

Those attending:

Allison Cox	Nicola Bowman
Ginny Parker	Pip Harrison
Alison Bravey	Kate Johnston
Judith Cook	Poppy Gilligan
Jessica Pearson	Claire Jackson
Lindsay Short	Elaine Grant
Hazel Badjie	

1. **Apologies:** Diane Tinnion, Alison Lawson, Vicki Graham

2. **Welcome:**
Introductions

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

Sensory Support Service update

GP – Lots of changes within the Sensory Support Service, SSS now comes under the umbrella of Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT) consisting of SSS, Portage and EAL. Anna Bradley left at Easter last year and Isabel Russell retired in the summer. Ginny Parker now Team Lead for HI and we have a new TOD Kirsty Norfolk who is in her last year of training. Allison Cox joined us in October as the LINT Manager.

It has been a challenging year due to Covid, but we have continued to support children and families through email, phone calls, WhatsApp, google/teams meet, virtual sessions, garden visits, doorstep visits for repairs etc. We also have a closed family Facebook page

We have advised and supported schools to deliver remote sessions, along with risk assessments, PPE etc.

We have undergone a change from Google to Microsoft 365 and are in the process of becoming a paperless service.

We sent a questionnaire in September for Senco's and 80% of responses said that SSS was excellent.

We have also delivered virtual training.

PH – Positive remote meetings.

Virtual Pre-school music group up to 7 years of age has had great attendance.

Thanks to Freeman hospital for their Service.

AC – As a new manager I am impressed with the resourcefulness of the team, they have not let Covid get in the way, they have been even more creative.

Audiology update (KJ)

KJ – It has been a challenging year, personally and professionally. The biggest challenge was when we had to shut down Services at the first lockdown. All appointments were stopped except for urgent appointments. Newborn urgent referrals were maintained. Vast majority of staff were working from home. Only 15 staff out of 55 working in department due to social distancing.

Outreach clinics have never been busier.

Back to 70% capacity now and getting through backlog. Seeing paediatrics within 6 weeks. Newborn service running as normal.

Parents Representatives update:

NB – J didn't take his A Levels but through assessment achieved 3 x A*. Attending Durham University doing a finance degree.

CJ – C now living with dad. He is in his last year of A levels, managing with online learning but missing his friends.

JC – K is doing fine, just finished first year foundation course in Art. Working at Morrisons over Christmas.

Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS):

AB – Business as normal adapting to new way of working.

Virtual platforms, website page: <https://northumberlandiass.org.uk>, Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandIASS>

Information bulletin:

<https://northumberlandiass.org.uk/downloads/IASSInformationBulletinJanuary2021.pdf>

NERCIP (Cochlear Implant Programme):

EG – Staffing: no vacancies. Continuing with appointments. Waiting lists up to date for paediatric reviews. There has been a reduction in paediatric referrals.

Newborn Hearing Screening:

LS – Inpatient service continued as normal. Outpatient's service was cancelled at the end of March but was fully restored by July 17th. Currently have 2 staff members in training.

NDCS update:

HB – Asked if there were any resource bases within Northumberland - "None"
Advised that there was a parent workshop for parents who want to be involved with CHSWG?

Advised that there was a CHSWG Professionals workshop for anyone who was interested. **GP, KJ, AC, PH would like to sign up.**

CHSWG action plan, this can be used any way we wish. This will be revisited next meeting. Template attached.

4. ***Terms of Reference:***

Terms of reference looked at and discussed. GP & KJ will share responsibility of the Chairmanship.

KJ to enquire about ENT/ BAHA representatives for CHSWG group

GP to enquire about specialist SALT, community paediatrician and Health Visitor representative as well as parents and Northumberland College

2 more parent representatives are needed. NB/JC/CJ are happy to continue until they can be replaced.

It was agreed for virtual meetings to continue.

Date and Time of next meeting: Tues 18th May 2021 3.30pm - 5pm

