Brighton and Hove Children’s Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG)



 

**Meeting 17th October 2019**

**10am - 12noon**

**Venue: Hollingbury Learning Centre, County Oak Avenue, Brighton, BN1 8DJ**

**Present-** Charlotte Morris, Anna Jenkins; Alison Davies; Ange Ward; Janine Blundell; Ruth Loska

**Apologies-** Rob Low, Sul Regan, Vanessa Sharp

* Apologies
* Matters arising from previous minutes
* Service updates
* Feedback from parents reps
* AOB

**Service Updates:**

Charlotte Morris – (BSUH Audiology)

Both Naomi and Laura are back from maternity leave.

The admin team in Audiology has lost 2 members of staff recently who have moved from admin into clinical roles (one to be an Apprentice Audiologist and the other as a Trainee Hearing Therapist). This is great news for the clinical team but means that the department is very short staffed in the admin team at present.

A business case has been submitted for the department to become a CI centre. This is in very early stages but has exciting potential.

Sul Regan – (SNS) (info via email as unable to attend meeting):

The main updates are the changes at Bevendean Hearing Support Facility. The facility has accepted two profoundly deaf children who use BSL only for the first time. Plus another pupil who has no speech and uses BSL for expression. This has meant the employment of three Individual Needs Assistants (two of which have BSL level 3) to provide full time 1:1 support for the children. Sul is teaching BSL level 1 to 11 members of school staff to enable them to communicate with the children.

TOD Peter Hodd retired in July and is replaced by Caroline Pound, TOD from Laycock school. She is deaf and oral.

Both of our TOD trainees – Gill Hart and Anne Hindle (who teaches at Bevendean) passed their courses and BSL Level 1 and are now fully qualified TODs.

Ruth Loska - (NHSP Screening Lead)

Ruth introduced herself to the group. She has been in post since July replacing Polly Strauss.

There are difficulties with staffing levels currently in the team with long term sickness and 2 other members of staff leaving for apprenticeship posts, as this is a small team it has had a big impact. There have been no breaches due to staffing issues though and the recruitment of new members of staff is progressing with HR. However, new screeners are required to complete their Hearing Screening Diploma so it will be a few months before they can screen unsupervised.

Ruth is doing a 50/50 job split with her skills between NHSP and midwifery.

Janine Blundell – (Paediatrician)

Genetics testing with the Deafness Panel is meaning that knowledge is beginning to build however this can be tricky to manage in terms of managing anxiety for families. If families have concerns prior to results arriving they can also contact Janine / Ange to discuss.

There is a meeting tomorrow with paediatrician where the topic of reinvestigating aetiology in older children / adults is being discussed.

The cCMV pathways are working well however a further meeting needs to be arranged to look at more details including the 4 weeks cut off for testing.

Ange Ward - (Sussex Community Audiology)

Vanessa Sharp will be leaving her post as Children Audiology Lead to move to another management post with Sussex Community Trust. She will still be on hand to support Audiology. The advert for the job is now live.

All other areas of the service are going well.

Anna Jenkins and Alison Davies - (Parent Reps)

Website difficulties are still ongoing but tricky to sort out, hoping to have a solution soon.

Anna wanted to highlight CICS (Cochlear Implanted Children’s Support Group) are a resource for CI children and their families. They have a wealth of support available with info day and events. Not sure that families are being made aware of this group.

There is a city wide issue with school transport for children with SEN at present. Over the summer there was a restructuring of this service which has caused problems for many children and families. PaCC have been very active in challenging this and things have slightly improved but still have a way to go.

The WhatsApp group is doing well. Now has 41 participants and is proving a great support particularly for “in the moment” issues.

AOB

Ali asked if there was possibility of setting up a CHSWG bank account. Each year the CHSWG is given a small grant from PaCC to help gather information to feedback to them. However, as the website is still not up and running this money has not been spent. To discuss with Rob Low as Chair.

The frequency of the meetings was discussed. It was agreed that 4 meetings a year is ideal (i.e. 3 monthly) to allow for guest speakers and still have enough sessions to discuss all topics. The next meeting is scheduled for a Thursday but it was felt that alternating between a Tuesday and Thursday in future may allow other attendees to come.

**Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 30th January 2020 at 10am – 12pm**

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