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



  

**Minutes from CHSWG meeting Thursday 14th February**

**Present:** Ali Davis, Anna Brecon, Janine Blundell, Rob Low, Ange Ward, Sally Etchells and Gill Hart

**Apologies:** Sul Regan, Caroline Palmer, Polly Strauss, Vanessa Sharpe and Katy Liriano

* Matters arising from previous minutes
* Service updates
* Feedback from parents reps
* cCMV update
* BAHA Options
* AOB

**Service Updates**

**Consultant Paediatrician Aetiological Investigations:**

**Janine Blundell:**

Janine summarised the latest genetic research, highlighting the gaps in current knowledge but the international efforts to fill these gaps.

cCMV update – Rob, Polly, Justine Leonard and Janine met with the Lead of Infectious Diseases, Katie Fidler. New protocol to be introduced with separate pathways for babies under the age of 4 weeks, and those over 4 weeks. Babies identified at the Newborn Hearing Screening will have urine taken by placing a cotton wool in the nappy pre appointment. If PCHI confirmed then swab to be sent to lab for cCMV analysis and results returned in 24 hours to Katie Fidler, if no PCHI then cotton wool discarded and no test made.

If the child is over 4 weeks, Audiology will refer child to the Toddler Valgan Study.

Justine Leonard to create a Protocol Diagram of Pathway.

**Sussex Community Foundation Trust Audiology:**

**Vanessa Sharp feedback via Ange Ward:**

New Band 6 audiologist/nurse.

New admin in Crawley

Band 6 in Brighton is currently on a Higher Training Scheme

Waiting lists are reduced and children are being seen on time.

BGH – surveys, IQIPS, auditing, surveillance work

Representatives of audiology involved in transition group for children to adulthood.

Vanessa would like to start a deafness group

AHP includes clinical support:- OT, SLT, dieticians but not paediatric audiology.

**Parent representative feedback:**

**Ali Davis and Anna Brecon:**

Delays with the new website but a web designer will be creating it soon. PaCC are funding the website.A forum for parents, including feedback about what is happening in the community etc.

Need confirmation, possibly from CHSWG, on what they are allowed to include on the website.

ENT have sent letters to parents of children with glue ear suggesting they make an appointment if parents are still concerned. Apparently 1500 letters have been sent and only 200 parents have replied.

**NDCS feedback:**

**Sally Etchells:**

Eva Jolly is leaving NDCS and Martin Thacker will be the interim replacement. Martin.thacker@NDCS.org.uk

New website for professionals and parents. Clearer and more accessible.

Training dates provided by Sally.

New training resource “Supporting the achievement of deaf children who use English as an additional language (EAL)”

New guidance for CHSWG meetings including term of references, best practice, will be out soon

Changing criteria for CI. Changes in guidance from NICE.

**Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Audiology Service:**

**Rob Low:**

Ongoing difficulties with moving site. Date for move is April 2021. Audiology may be moving to the children’s hospital for 3 months during demolition. However, there is a possibility that they might not be able to run a paediatric clinic for 3 months.

Naomi is just returning from maternity leave but will be taking nearly 2 months of accrued annual leave before back in clinic. Justine has been covering her maternity but is leaving this week. This leaves a shortfall in capacity

Laura’s post has not been filled.

Charlotte and Rob are prioritising children. Charlotte works mornings only., and Rob only part-time clinical, so waits might develop.

Rob wants to use Survey Monkey to ask parents for feedback or ideas for new department. However, he is not sure if it is possible due to GPDR. Rob will check with the trust.

BAHA – more diverse options are available. Rob is trialling AdHear – an adhesive tape stuck onto the mastoid bone and BAHA clips onto it. Each sticker lasts approx 4 days before needing replacement. Rob has received positive feedback from 2 teenagers who are using it.

Radio shoes – Phonak are supplying V series to work with a FM system. Unfortunately the paediatric battery compartment is unsafe, therefore Rob is not willing to use it. Rob has spoken with Phonak but they suggested using an integral radio received at a much higher cost.

NDCS will look into it as it is a national issue.

Phonak V – Rob is using with older children. To activate the FM on the shoe, remove a tiny white strip on the battery.

AOB: Congratulations to Rob for receiving the Health Professional award from PaCC. Well done!

***Next meeting: Thursday 13th June.***

***Rob to invite Kathy from CCG and ENT.***