

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Summer 2023 (1)

Local Engagement Team Update: Welcome to the first of our summer CHSWG updates. Please do share this with colleagues, parents and anyone else who might find it useful.

Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns (UK wide)

Children's hearing services in England (2022)

This report sets out the findings from a national survey of children's hearing or paediatric audiology services in England in spring 2022. Responses highlight that paediatric audiology services are facing some difficult challenges as they recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The main themes reported were long waiting lists, staffing issues, increasing demands on services, barriers to gaining Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPs) accreditation and other resource or funding issues.

However, responses from services provided evidence that many are working hard to tackle these challenges and maintain quality. Some are even managing to innovate and commit to service improvement in a difficult environment. [Read the report and briefing.](#)

Free British Sign Language Classes for Families with deaf children (England)

We are working with the British Deaf Association to support Katie Littlejohn's campaign for free sign language classes for parents with deaf children. Katie, a parent from Cornwall, started this campaign because she thought it was unfair for parents like her to pay to learn how to communicate with their deaf child. We agree with Katie that this is unfair and needs to change.

Do you agree? If you do, [email your MP](#) that you don't think parents with deaf children should ever have to pay to communicate with their children. [All it takes is two minutes.](#)

Help raise awareness of Teachers of the Deaf (England)

Teachers of the Deaf play a vital role in supporting deaf children and their families. They give advice to parents of deaf children, they visit deaf students at school or college, and they train teachers and schools on deaf awareness.

We've created a brand new video that explains just how important Teachers of the Deaf are. [You can watch it here.](#) We'd like as many people as possible to share the video with their MP, to remind them just how important Teachers of the Deaf are. [Please use our easy online template to email or tweet your MP.](#)

The Government recently announced a [new apprenticeship to train more Teachers of the Deaf.](#) This is positive news — but the scheme won't start until 2025. Deaf children can't wait until this is in place to get the specialist support they deserve. Please [join us](#) in reminding politicians that we need more investment now.

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Research

Development of parent experience-based information resources for families of children age 0-4 years with mild/unilateral deafness

This study is being run by the UCL Ear Institute and funded by the National Deaf Children's Society to understand more about the experiences of parents and carers of young children with mild or unilateral deafness.

We want to know about parents' experiences of the identification and management of their child's mild or unilateral deafness/hearing loss. We are also developing an online resource to help parents of babies and young children (age 0-4 years) identified with mild or unilateral deafness/hearing loss.

Participating will involve an online interview with a researcher which will take about 1 hour and participants will be given a £20 voucher as a gesture of thanks. [Find out more about this study.](#)

External research

These two studies may be of interest to CHSWG members. We are not involved in these studies but have agreed to share them.

- **Teacher of the Deaf and Specialist Speech and Language Therapy services**

Beth Kilmartin (Specialist Speech and Language Therapist and NIHR ARC pre-doctoral fellow) is auditing Teacher of the Deaf and Specialist Speech and Language Therapy services for deaf multilingual children to identify gaps and promote best practice. Professionals can complete the audit [here](#).

- **The role of visual speech and sign language to reading development for deaf and hearing children**

Prof. Mairéad MacSweeney and Dr. Tyrone Woolfe are working on a study to explore the role of visual speech and also sign language to reading development for deaf and hearing children. They are continuing to look for participants aged 3-4 years for the project. They have already recruited children who joined Reception in 2022. Children will take part in language and literacy tests over three years. Find out more [here](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact them at visualCR@ucl.ac.uk.

Resources and training (UK wide)

New and updated resources

- Check out our new and improved webpages on [choosing a communication approach](#) and [sign language](#).
- We have new webpages on [deafness and additional needs](#) and included new information on the different types of additional needs, ADHD, and tinnitus.
- We also have a new webpage on [communication options for deaf children with additional needs](#).

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- Organisations can now use our [handy form to order of a pack of deaf awareness materials](#) for their setting.
- Our updated [‘Work and careers’ web information](#) now has BSL summaries for its main pages.

Free e-learning modules

Our free e-learning modules are a great way to improve your knowledge and achieve CPD credits at a time and place to suit you. They take from 10 minutes to one hour to complete. [Find out more.](#)

Upcoming dates for CPD accredited training workshops

Our expert trainers deliver interactive workshops that will help you support deaf children and young people to achieve their potential:

[Raising a Deaf Child Facilitator Training](#) 3 May 2023, 1pm to 2.30pm, £70

This workshop will enable you to confidently deliver our Raising a Deaf Child programme with the families you work with.

[Supporting Deaf Children in Early Years Settings](#) 7 June 2023, 6pm to 7.30pm, £40

Learn how to fully include deaf children in the life of your early years setting.

[Healthy Minds](#) 8, 15, 22 and 29 June 2023, 1pm to 2.30pm, £90

Learn how to run activities to help support the emotional health and wellbeing of deaf children and young people.

[Deaf Awareness for Early Years Practitioners](#) 13 July 2023, 6pm to 7.30pm, £20

Learn how to confidently support children with hearing loss in your setting.

Events and support for parents, deaf children and young people (UK wide)

Events for families

There is a broad range of in person and online events on offer including New to Hearing Loss in person and online events, Baby and Toddler sessions, Happy Hands sessions (formerly known as Baby Sign), information and advice sessions as well as online courses including online Family Sign Language. Find out more [here](#).

Family Sign Language – group online course (0-3 years) 6 consecutive weeks starting on Wednesday 7th June, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

This is for families of deaf children aged between 0-3. Parents and family members are welcome to join this course to learn useful everyday signs alongside other parents and carers. Topics will include family and routines, food and drink, play time, numbers and colours, fingerspelling and much more.

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Contact

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk