

Dorset Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG)

MINUTES

Weds 10th May 2023, 10am, Microsoft Teams

Present:

- **Lisa Nind** (Clinical Lead, Paediatric Audiology, Dorset HealthCare)
- **Helen Williams** (Service Manager, Audiology and ENT, Dorset HealthCare)
- **Rachel Beeby** (Clinical Scientist, Audiology, Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust)
- **Simon Baird** (Clinical Scientist, Audiology, Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust)
- **Sarah Morris** (Consultant Paediatrician, University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Shirley Sorbie** (Dorset Deaf Children's Society, Membership Secretary and Trustee)
- **Ursula Murley** (Principal Advisory Teacher, Dorset Hearing Support Service)
- **Ken Tucker** (Educational Audiologist, Dorset Hearing Support Service)
- **Hannah Brown** (NDCS Local Engagement Officer)
- **Jemma Buckler** (NHSP Local Manager)

1	<h3><u>Introductions and Apologies:</u></h3>
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UM introduced herself as chair of the meeting. KT took minutes.
UM welcomed everyone.

Apologies received:

- **Deepa Shenoy** (Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust)
- **Nicola Foley** (DDCS) – *Nicola has now withdrawn from CHSWG.*
- **Christine Rainsford** (SaLT) – *Christina has withdrawn from CHSWG following a change in role and Erica Davies (service manager) will be the new representative.*
- **Joanna Ames** (NHS Programme Lead, Children and Young People Team, Strategic Commissioning and Place Directorate, NHS Dorset)
- **Kate Halsey** (NHS Commissioning)
- **Dorothy Goodall** (USAIS -Teacher of the Deaf)
- **Sam Bealing** (USAIS -Teacher of the Deaf, Educational Audiologist)
- **Kathryn Key** (Senior Specialist Audiologist (Paediatrics), Dorset HealthCare)
- **Juliet Viney** (Parent and Trustee)

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Matters Arising:

Review of minutes from last meeting

- There was a discussion about whether an Annual Report should be published.
- The guidance is to write an Annual Report and it was felt this would be good practice to highlight what services are doing and have achieved. The Annual Report would be a summary, not minutes, and could be shared with commissioners as well as stakeholders.
- HB has some example annual reports from other regions which she will share with UM.
- All agreed that bringing back an Annual Report is a good idea, and we will take up HB's offer to see other reports as a starting point.

Review of actions from last meeting

- No actions required.

Terms of Reference

- It was agreed to accept the NDCS CHSWG Terms of Reference.
- However, there are some service representatives not in attendance at today's meeting. Social Care and Children Who Are Disabled have not been involved for some time.
- A final version of the Terms of Reference for Dorset CHSWG will be produced and distributed to CHSWG members with the minutes of this meeting.

Paediatric Hearing Aid Care Kits

- UM and Audiology colleagues thanked Dorset DCS for purchasing 150 Paediatric Hearing Aid Care Kits for newly diagnosed children who are issued with hearing aids. DDCS information and a membership card is included in every kit.

Service Updates:

Newborn Hearing Screening Programme – Jemma Buckler

JB provided two reports which will be distributed with the minutes:

- Quarter 2 for 22-23 Standards and KPIs
- Quarter 3 for 22-23 Standards and KPIs
- A Family and Friends test score survey since last meeting; 155 responses. 147 report service very good, 7 report good, and 1 neither poor nor good.
- Standards of all NHSP sites are being changed to those of a hospital model at the request of the National Team. This is due to there being only 4 community sites left. We expect this change to happen in the next few months and it will mean that we will need to see babies within 4 weeks (currently 5 weeks).
- JB reported that taking on Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) assessments has been positive. JB confirmed that NHSP has the staff capacity to do this. The team currently runs a 5-day service so babies discharged over the weekend may not be assessed in hospital but are then offered a home visit or priority clinic appointment.
- RB keeps a list of new diagnoses but wondered if she should collect list of outcomes of aetiological investigations, e.g., genetic testing as it might be useful to know causes of hearing loss.
- SM suggested adding details to the national website - it's not compulsory but would be good practice.

Paediatrics (East and West) – Sarah Morris

- SM apologised for not having the opportunity to write a report for this meeting and reported no big changes.
- Genetic investigations are currently taking a long time to complete, approximately 9-10 months.
- SM sees all referred children and completes investigations for families living on the east.
- It would be good to ask Deepa to share her practice in the west and share local findings.
- SM said she would prepare a report for the next meeting.

Dorset Hearing Support Service – Ursula Murley

- There are currently 527 children, aged 0 to 25, on the active caseload who receive direct support from HSS either at home, in a pre-school setting, mainstream school, special school or college setting.
- 81 children who live in Dorset have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 74 children who live in BCP have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- A new Transition Planning report has been developed in partnership with the Physical & Medical Needs Team; this is for children moving schools.

- A Summer Activity Day for the Hearing and Vision Support Service, including Music, Art and Forest School activities, will be held on Thurs 29th June for Key Stage 2 children (aged 7 – 11). We hope to have a turn out of about 40 children from Hearing Support and 20 from Vision Support; this will be the first time that a joint HVSS children's event has been held.
- HSS Teachers have completed various CPD courses including Dyslexia, Auditory Verbal Therapy and First Aid.
- HSS has introduced new digital 'e-forms' for new referrals and parent agreement forms.
- At the next CHSWG in November we are planning to arrange for some older children/students to join us online to give their feedback.
- Battery safety bottles have been introduced as a temporary storage solution for children/students and schools to ensure that flat/dead batteries are not kept loose in bags, drawers or pockets.
- There was a discussion regarding battery safety and disposal. In Dorset, batteries can be recycled with household waste collections, but this is not the case for BCP households.
 - Schools have recycling policies and batteries can be handed to the office/caretaker for safe disposal.
 - There is a QR code on the battery safety bottles which links to COSH guidance: [Button Battery Safety | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](https://www.capt.org.uk)
 - Many supermarkets provide recycling facilities.
 - There needs to be a level of common sense and responsibility from parents to ensure battery safety in the home.

Paediatric Audiology, East & West Dorset – Lisa Nind

LN provided an Audiology Update report which will be distributed with the minutes.

- There was a discussion about waiting rooms at Shelley Road as they had stopped being used during the pandemic. The current situation is that patients come into the audiology entrance and go to the first floor, then take a place in the paediatric waiting room; this has been the case for around 3 months.
- The 'old conference room' entrance, which has been used since the pandemic, will become permanent. Funding has been agreed to make this space more comfortable. There will be a display of DDCCS/NDCS literature in the main waiting room as well as the paediatric waiting room and the old adult waiting room (which is often used by older children).
- SS agreed to feedback to LN any ideas for improving the main waiting room and this would be gratefully received.
- SS asked if appointments on the west will revert to the hospital in Dorchester. Clinics are currently held in Blandford Hospital, the Children's Centre in Dorchester, and the Audiology Dept in Dorset County Hospital but there is no waiting room and no facility to display literature.

- There is a new facility planned for Weymouth which will include a new paediatric assessment room.
- Audiology can provide display racks for DDCS/NDCS literature at the new facility.
- SS asked how many paediatric audiologists work in the east?
- LN – about 10 staff are involved in paediatric audiology. LN is the only one who exclusively sees paediatric patients. Four staff mostly work with preschool children and another four members of staff work with older children.

University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service – Sam Bealing

SB distributed a report to CHSWG members prior to the meeting, a copy will be distributed with the minutes.

- USAIS Continues to offer an extensive training programme, including personalised training for Dorset HSS teachers.
- There have been a few staff changes within the USAIS team.
- For new patients only, MED-EL and Cochlear are being offered.
- The new Advanced Bionics processor, Marvel, has an integrated receiver for radio aids; this is activated via a paid license.
- Children with bone conduction devices who are due for an upgraded are receiving Cochlear Baha 6 or Oticon Ponto 5 aids.

ENT - East & West

No staff available to attend the meeting today.

School Health

No staff available to attend the meeting today.

Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy

CR now has a new role within SaLT and the CHSWG representative will be Erica Davies.

Children's Social Care/Children Who Are Disabled

No response received to email invitation sent to service manager - UM will follow up.

Dorset Deaf Children's Society – Shirley Sorbie

SS provided a report which will be distributed with the minutes. A copy of the recent DDCS newsletter will also be sent to CHSWG members with the minutes.

- UM and LN extended thanks to the DDCS for all their hard work supporting families and especially for the paediatric hearing aid care kits - SS will pass thanks onto the DDCS trustees.
- 150 paediatric hearing aid care kits were recently purchased from a single grant

	<p>donation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDCS currently has 195 members of which 134 are families with a hearing-impaired child/ren and there are 143 children supported. • There are currently 12 Trustees who manage all the DDCS activities and events. • Four events have been held so far this year. • In July several families will be attending a residential activity weekend at PGL in Osmington, Weymouth. • Volunteers needed to support the DDCS Family Fun Day on Sunday 18th June at the Orangery Walled Gardens, Merley House. HW will ask staff in Audiology and UM will ask HSS staff. • The CHSWG minutes are published on the DDCS website along with the NDCS CHSWG updates. <p>National Deaf Children’s Society – Hannah Brown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB congratulated SS and the DDCS trustees on the brilliant range of activities they provide for children and families in Dorset. • The recent NDCS CHSWG Summer Update Newsletter has been shared with CHSWG members - please have a look at what’s on offer for families and professionals. <p>NHS Clinical Commissioning Group No staff available to attend the meeting today.</p>
4	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u></p> <p>Parental engagement was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS aims to send out a newsletter for parents every term. • Parents were invited to today’s meeting (if only to observe without commitment) but there was no take up. • For the November 2023 meeting, HSS is planning to arrange a student panel, which might encourage a few parents to attend. • There was then a discussion about an evening event to engage with more parents. It was decided that an evening meeting next spring with speakers from different professions would be investigated; this could be similar to an event held a few years ago at the Wimborne Community Centre. <p>NDCS updates were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS reported that the NDCS Roadshow Bus has been discontinued and that the NDCS plans to introduce a new 5-year strategy focussing on younger children, 0 to 5 years. SS queried how this might impact on support for older children? • HB confirmed that the Roadshow Bus has been cancelled. There will be more information coming soon about the new NDCS 5-year strategy. The focus will

	<p>include newly diagnosed children at any age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HB will share further information in the coming weeks about the new NDCS campaign.
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Date of next meeting:

- Weds 8th November 2023, 10.00am
 - An online Teams meeting invite will be sent to CHSWG members.
 - A separate email will be sent with the minutes and associated reports.