

# CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Spring 2023 (1)

## Local Engagement Team Update

The Local Engagement Team is delighted to share our full suite of [new web pages](#) with you. You can now see what our team does, who we are and get lots of resources for CHSWGs. We will be adding to it month by month so do go and have a look round.

Over the next few months, we will be continuing to run our CHSWG workshops:

**Parents as Partners** - for parents who want to join CHSWG or who may already be members but want to find out more about the role of supporting local service improvement.

**Professionals Working Together at CHSWGs** - for professionals working with deaf children, who want to join CHSWG or who may already be members but want to find out more about the role of supporting local service improvement.

The links to register for these workshops are on our [CHSWG page](#).

## Other news for services

### Education

#### Latest research data from the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE)

CRIDE has published the [findings](#) from their annual survey of specialist education services for deaf children, covering numbers of deaf children, Teachers of the Deaf, sign language support and more.

#### Deaf education map

There's new information available on the map. We've added data that we've collected in the [2022 CRIDE survey](#).

You can now find the latest information on education services for deaf children across the UK. Such as numbers of Teachers of the Deaf, or numbers of deaf children. You can also see how these compare to national averages.

Please also share the map with any families of deaf children you're in touch with. Find the map here: <https://deafeducationmap.ndcs.org.uk/>

Email us at [localengagement@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:localengagement@ndcs.org.uk) if you have any feedback or queries about the data shown on the map for your area.

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|                            | <p><b>Deaf-friendly early education and childcare</b></p> <p>We've updated <a href="#">our resource</a> for anyone working with deaf children in an early years setting, including nurseries, pre-school, childminders, nannies, and playgroups. Please share with practitioners working in your area.</p> <p><b>Deaf-friendly online learning webpage</b></p> <p>We've recently updated <a href="#">our information about deaf-friendly online learning</a>, based on a blog post written during the first Covid-19 lockdown.</p>   |
| <p><b>Other health</b></p> | <p><b>Updated guidance for Health Visitors (England)</b></p> <p>We have updated the <a href="#">guidance available for health visitors</a> about how to support babies with a confirmed hearing loss and what to do if they suspect a hearing loss. This is also available for health visitors to share with families,</p>   |
| <p><b>Multi-agency</b></p> | <p><b>Please help us to show support for the British Sign Language GCSE</b></p> <p>We need to know how much interest there is in a British Sign Language GCSE - from everyone - whether you are deaf or hearing. This will help us show the Department for Education there is still a lot of interest in the BSL GCSE. The more people that take our survey, the more interest we can generate and ensure the BSL GCSE remains at the top of the Government's radar.</p> <p>Please just answer a few quick questions to show your support and share it widely with any practitioners, professionals, and families of deaf children you're in touch with. You can find the survey here: <a href="#">BSL survey (typeform.com)</a></p> <p><b>Join our Professionals Community on Facebook</b></p> <p>This is a closed group primarily for professionals in education, health and social care working with deaf children and their families. It is a place where you can provide feedback to us about our work, and a space for professionals from different disciplines to come together and discuss topics relating to working with deaf children. Join the group at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/ndcspromotionalcommunity">https://www.facebook.com/groups/ndcspromotionalcommunity</a></p> <p><b>Deaf Child Today Survey</b></p> <p>We're excited to share that this year's <a href="#">Deaf Children Today survey</a> will be released on <b>Monday 16 January</b>. Please share far and wide to ensure as many parents as possible find out about the survey and get the time to complete it.</p> |

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## Scotland news

### Have your say on improving audiology provision in Scotland

In January 2022, the Scottish Government announced a [National Review of Audiology Services](#) provided in hospitals in Scotland. As part of the review, the Scottish Government is asking those who use hospital-based audiology services, whether as patients or professionals to fill out an anonymous survey. The results will inform the review group's recommendations on the future of audiology services in Scotland.

There are [four surveys](#) aimed at different audiences, including one for professionals with a connection to audiology services (for example, those who make referrals to audiology), and surveys for deaf young people aged between 13-18, the parents of younger deaf children and adult deaf people.

More information about the consultation with British Sign Language (BSL) translation can be found [here](#). Please note the survey is not yet available in BSL. Please share the surveys with other professionals or users of audiology services.

## Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns

### England: Email your MP for more Teachers of the Deaf

Our [latest research](#) shows the number of Teachers of the Deaf keeps going down. In England, there has been a drop of 19% since 2011. To change this trend, the Government must take urgent action to train and recruit more Teachers of the Deaf. Without this, more and more deaf children and their families will miss out on the specialist support they need.

Help make this happen by [raising this issue with your MP today](#).

### Scotland: Support our campaign for more Teachers of the Deaf

The [latest research](#) from the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) shows that the number of fully qualified Teachers of the Deaf employed by councils in Scotland has fallen by 40% over the last decade. Teachers of the Deaf play a crucial role in supporting deaf learners and their families, helping them overcome the barriers too many deaf children and young people still face in education.

NDCS has launched a [new campaign](#) in Scotland calling for local authorities to work with the Scottish Government and universities to increase the number of specialist Teachers of the Deaf, and help close the gap in educational attainment for deaf young people in Scotland. We want local authorities across Scotland to commit to returning the number of fully qualified Teachers of the Deaf they employ to 2011 levels over the next ten years. This commitment should be backed by the Scottish Government, as part of a wider specialist additional support for learning workforce strategy. Read our [blog](#) to find out more.

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## Resources and training

### Book your place at our online conference: **Involve, Engage, Inspire – Deaf young people and decision making**

At our one-day online event on 22 March, 9am to 5pm, we'll share ideas on how to empower deaf young people to make decisions about their futures and take greater control of their lives. You'll hear from deaf young people, expert leaders such as our keynote speaker, **Dame Christine Lenehan, Director of the Council for Disabled Children** and learn participation techniques through our interactive workshops.

We'll cover three key themes:

- Gathering the views of deaf children and young people.
- Building deaf young people's confidence in making decisions about their education.
- Real-life examples of co-production between deaf young people and education professionals.

This conference is designed for all education professionals working with deaf children and young people aged 10 to 25 years. [Find out more and book](#)

### 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. [More info](#)

### 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](#), Online, 18 and 25 January, 2pm to 3.30pm or 26 April and 3 May, 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](#), Online, 23 February, 6pm to 7.30pm or 7 June, 6pm to 7.30pm, £40  
Learn how to fully include deaf children in the life of your early years setting.
- [Deaf Awareness for Early Years Practitioners](#), Online, 2 March, 6pm to 7.30pm or 13 July, 6pm to 7.30pm, £20  
Learn how to confidently support children with hearing loss in your setting.

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## Events and support for parents, deaf children and young people

### Events for parents, carers and families

There is a broad range of in person and online events on offer including in person Family sign language weekends, New to Hearing Loss in person and online events, Baby and Toddler sessions, Parents as Partners, Introduction to Campaigning, Information and Advice sessions as well as online courses including Raising a Deaf Child, and Family Sign Language. [Find out more](#)

### Parent/Carer Membership

Wherever families are on their journey, our support and community is here for them every step of the way. We encourage families to provide us with details about their child's hearing loss when they register to become a member so we can tailor the information we send to meet their needs. [Read more](#)

### Deaf Young Person Membership

Membership is free for deaf young people aged 18-25. Membership offers regular updates with tips and opportunities to campaign for change, use our technology loan scheme, and be the first to hear about volunteering roles with us and through external organisations. [Read more](#)

### Buzz Club Membership

The Buzz is the only website for deaf young people aged 8 to 18 in the UK. The Buzz is a safe, online space created by deaf young people for deaf young people aged 8 to 18. Our new features mean that deaf young people now have a platform where they can read inspiring stories, connect with others like them, find the latest information and support, sign up to events, ask questions and get involved. [Read more](#)

### Moving on Survey

We are asking deaf young people 16-25 to tell us about their experiences in audiology, work and careers, and education. We have created [a survey](#) because we want to know what deaf young people think needs to change for deaf young people. Their feedback will be fed back into CHSWGs and ideas will help us to campaign for change for deaf young people.

### Digital events for 14 to 18 year olds

- [Job Club: Preparing for Work](#) Online, Thursday 9 February, 6-7pm  
Delivered by Doncaster Deaf Trust, Carers Advisor. How to write a standout CV and cover letter, useful interview preparation tips and how to ensure communication support is in place.
- [Resilience: Bouncing Back](#) Online, Thursday 9 March, 6-7pm)  
Hear from a deaf role model about their own challenging experiences. Find out top tips to improving your own resilience and overcoming difficult situations in the future.

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- We also have some of our fantastic [Your Future Webinars](#) available on-demand where deaf young people can see a host of deaf role models talking about their experiences in carers such as Engineering, Healthcare, Business, Education and Music & Drama. They can click to watch anytime. Each one is around an hour long and accessible with BSL and captions.

## Your Future digital events for 14 to 18 years

Feeling unsure about your future career? Come to our webinars and find out how deafness isn't a barrier to getting a job you'd love.

- [Your Future: Deaf Role Models in Hospitality and Retail](#) Online, Wednesday 22 February, 7.15-8.30pm
- [Your Future: Deaf Role Models in the Emergency Services](#) Online, Wednesday 29 March, 7.15-8.30pm

## In-person events for 14 to 18 year olds

- [Vlogging with Media Trust](#), Saturday 25 February, London.  
Join Media Trust to learn about vlogging, useful media skills and media technology.
- [Get ready for your Future](#), Saturday 4 March, Bristol.  
Top tips and information to support independence, delivered by deaf role models. Insight into living independently and getting ready for college, University, or the workplace.
- [In Person Chagemaker events around the UK](#)
  - London: Saturday 4 February 10am to 4pm
  - Bristol: Saturday 25 February 10am to 4pm
  - Manchester: Saturday 11 March 10am to 4pm

There will be interactive workshops showing young people aged 8 to 18 how you can make a change and have fun games and exciting group activities.

## Information, Advice & Guidance Department – Welfare Benefits Offer

The Information, Advice and Guidance Department has a wide-ranging offer to support families with all aspects of welfare benefits. Professionals should encourage families and deaf young people to contact the [NDCS Helpline](#) to access support around their welfare benefits query.

A Helpline Officer will discuss and assess the request for support and depending on the details of that request offer one or more of the following:

- Information and bespoke resources around DLA and PIP (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) CDP and ADP (Scotland)
- A virtual benefits appointment – a 1 hour call (voice / video / accessible with interpreters) on any aspect of welfare benefits e.g. application, renewal or appealing a decision
- A referral to an Advice and Guidance Officer for one-to-one support, when appropriate
- Information on upcoming Welfare Benefits events (online and in person)
- Tailored welfare benefits guidance is also available on our website

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## Contact

Email us at [localengagement@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:localengagement@ndcs.org.uk)