

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Summer 2021 (1)

Local Engagement Team Update

Over the past few months, several CHSWGs have further developed the use of Action Plans. These are helping professionals and parents to identify and include local themes and issues so they can work together to break down barriers affecting deaf children. Some CHSWGs are using their action plan as an agenda and record of their meeting. They are able to track progress through regular updates on the plan. We are also seeing plans being used as a tool to inform strategic boards about issues facing deaf children in the local area and how this vital multi-agency forum can support achievement of local strategic objectives.

Please get in touch if you need support with development and implementation of your plan. Let us know if you are willing to share your action plan with other CHSWGs. In this way, we can share good practice across England.

Following positive feedback from CHSWGs and individual professionals, we are working to develop a professionals' course to support those who have recently joined CHSWG or intending to join. We hope this will be in place in September; and are looking at delivering 2 or 3 times a year online. This will be a free course.

Our '**Parents as Partners**' course for parents sitting on or joining CHSWG, has become very popular since we moved the course online last year. We run it every 6/7 weeks and our next course is Saturday 24 April. [Booking details can be found on our website](#). We would appreciate it if you could share this with local parents, particularly if you don't currently have parent representation on your CHSWG.

We are looking for examples of CHSWGs using creative and innovative ideas to involve deaf children and young people in CHSWGs or in development of service in your local area. If you would like to share anything, please get in touch, otherwise you may wish to add this to your CHSWG agenda for further discussion.

Other news for services

Audiology

Hearing care for children with a learning disability, autism or both

The NHS Long Term Plan aims to improve children's health by making sure they get the right health checks at the right time. NHS England have worked with National Deaf Children's Society, SeeAbility, Contact and the to produce a series of three guides for families on hearing checks, eye checks and dental checks for children with a learning disability, autism or both, to help explain why these health checks are important, how they are done, how to access them and how they can prepare their child for the checks. Click [here](#) to read more and download the resources.

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<p>Education</p>	<p>Covid-19</p> <p>Earlier this year, we updated our guidance schools and colleges on coronavirus and education support for deaf children. We also updated our open letter to schools. Please note that the open letter was drafted prior to changes to UK government guidance in March recommending that face coverings be worn in secondary classrooms.</p> <p>Other resources that may be helpful include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our position paper on face coverings in education. • information for families on what they can do if face coverings are being worn in classrooms and reasonable adjustments are not being made. • BATOD have also published helpful guidance around face coverings in education. <p>Last week, guidance on face coverings in education changed again. Guidance now explains that face shields/visors can be worn as an alternative to the exemption. It also sets out examples of reasonable adjustments that can be made. Our blog provides an update on the latest developments.</p>
<p>Other health</p>	<p>Reset Ethics research project</p> <p>The University of Liverpool are conducting research into the impact of the pandemic on paediatric surgeries. They would like to chat to families about their experiences of using these services since things returned to 'normal' following the initial COVID-19 lockdown. They are keen to hear from families in the following areas: Liverpool, Lancaster and the South Lakes, Sheffield, Birmingham and South London – although all families are welcome. The focus groups will consist of up to 10 people, will be held remotely via 'Zoom', and as a thank you each participant will be offered a £25 shopping voucher. For more information about the study, please visit this website or contact Carol Gray, Research Associate at the University of Liverpool, on Carol.Gray@liverpool.ac.uk</p>
<p>Early Years / Connecting Families</p>	<p>Connecting families</p> <p>Learning from the wonderful work - and support provided to families - by local deaf children's societies, we're developing our support to help more families access those kind of benefits. Where parents/carers express a desire to connect with other families we want to be able to help them – whether that's to join an established group, find other informal, online peer or group support, or consider starting something. We want to hear from them all. To check out where existing groups are, take a look here. NDCS map of Local Groups. To refer anyone to our support please use: connecting.families@ndcs.org.uk</p>
<p>Social Care</p>	<p>There is a current national social care review underway which is a useful opportunity to consider what works and what the difficulties are, with regard to social care support for deaf children and families. This can be found here. We would encourage you to respond.</p>

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Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns

Keep it clear

Our campaign to promote the use of clear face coverings and good deaf awareness continues. This month we supported deaf young person Dinah to set up a petition about the new rules saying face masks are now recommended in secondary classrooms. She has asked the Government to help her, and deaf young people like her. [Sign the petition here.](#)

Research

READY study

The READY (Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth) is a prospective longitudinal study of deaf young people as they move into adulthood, funded by the National Deaf Children's Society and led by the Universities of Manchester and Edinburgh. The research has the potential to fundamentally transform the evidence-base around post-16 support but only if we have the largest possible sample of deaf young people. **Please encourage any deaf young people you work with to get involved.** More information about how to sign up can be found at the [University of Manchester website.](#)

Literature review – Deaf children from ethnic minority groups

We have published a [literature review on deaf children from ethnic minority groups](#), exploring what research says about their outcomes and their experiences, as well as their families, in accessing public services.

CRIDE 2020 reports

Earlier this year, we published the [2020 CRIDE reports](#) for England and Wales. As well as usual questions around numbers of deaf children and Teachers of the Deaf, the 2020 reports include responses to thematic questions around family intervention in the early years and careers advice. The 2021 survey has been issued – heads of education services who have **not** received the survey should contact cride@ndcs.org.uk.

Resources and training

New and updated resources

We have updated our resource for education professionals on the specialist assessments available to use with deaf children – online at www.ndcs.org.uk/assessments.

Deaf Works Everywhere toolkit

The Deaf Works Everywhere toolkit for Sensory Support Professionals has now been launched, with over 150 downloads in six weeks. Over the rest of 2021, we will be evaluating the take up of the toolkit and assess how it is being embedded into service provision. The toolkit provides Teachers of the Deaf and other professionals with resources that enable them to provide deaf-specific careers information through workshops or 1:1 sessions. The workshop plans and resources are relevant across the spectrum of deafness, referring to technology and reasonable adjustments as well as the range of communication support deaf

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young people can access. To download the toolkit, visit www.ndcs.org.uk/dwetoolkit or for any questions, contact dwe@ndcs.org.uk.

Starting Out conference 2020 – recordings now available

Recordings of our 2020 conference for professionals are now available to purchase via our online training portal. Taking place last November, our conference brought together leaders and practitioners and focused on supporting deaf babies, children and their families in the early years (0 – 7 years).

Find out more and purchase the recordings: <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/conferences/our-previous-conferences/>

NEW Introduction to deaf awareness e-learning module

This is the perfect place for anyone new to deafness to start learning about deaf awareness. It sets out the challenges deaf people experience when trying to communicate with hearing people, advice on making lip-reading easier and basic finger spelling. This is free of charge and is available via our online training portal.

Find out more and book: <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/training-courses/e-learning/introduction-to-deaf-awareness/>

Upcoming training events

A number of online training workshops are scheduled through to January 2022, including [Healthy Minds](#) and our 3 CPD certified events; [Raising a deaf child facilitator training](#), [Deaf awareness for early years practitioners](#) and [Supporting deaf children in early years settings](#). Find out more about all of the training opportunities we have available on our website.

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/training-courses/>

NEW webpage to help families access the technology they need to get online

The past year has created so many challenges for families, one of which is a real reliance on digital technology and connectivity to access any services. This has created a real digital divide which may be due to a lack of digital skills or confidence, or simply not having the connectivity or devices to be able to get online. This new webpage [Accessing technology to help you get online](#) will help you give families much needed information about grants, routers, data allowances and a link to our “New to Online Sessions” free introductory session for parents to joining our online events.

Events and support for parents, deaf children and young people

Our [Supporting Parents New To Hearing Loss](#) online events are an ideal opportunity for families to start their journey, get the information they need after diagnosis and also to connect with other families at a time when they are still really unable to connect in person. With support from our experts, advice and guidance team and friendly hosts this is a great starting point for families new to the world of childhood deafness. Parents can join camera on or off and join in as much or as little as they choose as they get comfortable with NDCS and with their child’s diagnosis.

Our full range of events for families and deaf children and young people can be found [here](#)

Contact

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk