

## **CHSWG East Berks**

### **Minutes**

**22/10/2019**

#### **In attendance**

Lisa Bull (Chair, SCS), Holly Sydenham (Minute taker), Helen Begbie (SaLT), Helen Farthing (DeafCAMHS), Todorina Hammond (NDCS), BSL Interpreter

#### **Apologies**

Olivia Whiteside, Jenny Chopra, Kate Smith, USAIS representation, Val Holdich

#### **Minutes from last meeting**

Correction to USAIS part – Criteria is: Less than 19 yrs of age >80 dB at two frequencies or more from 500Hz, 1, 2, 3 and 4kHz in both ears.

#### **Service updates**

##### **Speech and Language**

Restructure of the team for both east and west Berkshire. There have been staff shortages from the hearing impaired team. Still Helen Begbie and Rebecca Griffiths for the east.

The Slough tender is still in discussion and at this time we are not a part of this, the hearing impaired part of the tender is still in discussion and there is not yet a named person assigned to this. At this present time only the EHCP children will be seen by speech and language, no school age children, only pre-school children

##### **Deaf CAMHS**

Working closely with Mary Hare in Newbury, however seeing children with multiple sensory needs, so difficult to assess fully, in need of a Occupational therapist and on the look out to recruit locally.

Do not currently have any speech and language therapists established within the team, looking to recruit to the team in the near future. Helen Begbie suggested that she could liaise with senior managers with Berkshire speech and language team to see if they could help with this in anyway.

Local CAMHS first assessment is currently at 18 weeks, other areas CAMHS can be an initial wait of up to two years. The current referral rate is good, however it can fluctuate.

There are lots of people and professionals that can refer to Deaf CAMHS, however parents are unable to refer directly.

Criteria for referral is currently children who are profoundly or severely deaf with mental health difficulties, BSL users who are struggling with school or home life.

### **NDCS**

#### **Please see attached update**

Changes to the website and also big project underway which will involve 500 children.

### **Audiology**

Kirstie Booth (Paed Lead) will be returning from Maternity leave in Jan 2020. Staffing within the audiology department is difficult at the moment, half the number of staff have left within a year period, which has also led to difficulty with recruitment in general across all banding. We are working with a few Locum staff at this time, which isn't ideal but it is helping to keep the waiting lists down.

Paediatrics waiting list is long at the moment, new referrals are being seen within the 6 week targets, however the follow ups are not being seen within the time frames, sometimes as long as 6 months to a year. NHSP referrals being seen within the 4 week target dates and this seems to be manageable at the moment. Hearing aid reviews for all children have to wait longer, not being booked when they should be unless the parents/carers are phoning to request appointments.

Isabel Lugar left the department in June, her work load is being shared between Yashmita, Louise and Holly, however Holly is temporarily leading the Paed service until Kirstie returns. Holly's working week is Monday – Wednesday. There is an advert out for a temporary Band 7, however this has not been filled.

The service should become more stable once staffing can be established and Kirstie returns

The adult service is now not supporting AQP contract as agreements could not be made between commissioners and Hospital, so only seeing non-AQP patients (under 55's with complex hearing losses)

Paediatric hearing aids may change, this has been put on hold until Kirstie returns, however current contract with Phonak is expensive so may need to look to change to Oticon? Adult hearing aids have just recently changed to GN Resound from Siemens.

The 15 minute school age children appointment is not currently happening within the department and School nurse referrals are still high. Holly is going to be looking at the waiting list for all paediatric patients and also the triaging process for Paeds.

### **Sensory Consortium Service**

Very successful 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party – another planned for next spring

Decision has been made to stay within the RBWM umbrella – however they will not be hosting directly. Current thoughts are that SCS will be hosted by the Achieving for Children trust directly, but based in RBWM.

Currently a stable caseload. Beginning to see an increase in support needed for students in further education and apprenticeships. One of the SCS team has stepped up to lead on developing this area of support.

Tracking website visitors- this has been increasing month by month. We are pleased that the website is being well used by families and professionals alike. We are constantly reviewing the website and always looking to improve it further. Also have a Facebook page and currently have 90 family that are following.

Completely paperless now and referrals are electronic. Thinking of trying Google.doc referral system, however this is work in progress.

The multi-agency day 2019 was postponed.

Revised Radio aid policy: Parents do not need to sign to provide insurance for radio aid systems. However, we are still asking them to sign a form to say that they will take good care of the expensive equipment. We are working very hard to increase our fitting of radio aids to pre-school children- in line with evidence-based research and current good practice guidance.

Currently fitting tamperproof receivers to under 3s. However, from January 2020, under 5's will need tamperproof battery drawers according to Radio Aid Working Group meeting recently, under instruction from the MRHA (Regulating Medicines and Medical Devices)

Four ToDs retired at the end of July 2019. Four new teachers were recruited of which two were qualified ToDs and two are now in training.

SCS is also currently supporting the Langley Academy Resource Base and the Emmbrook Resource Base while they have temporary qualified ToD staffing difficulties.

### **NHSP**

Frimley Health Trust - Wexham park and Frimley park hospitals:

Key performance indicators -

2019 20 Q1 NH1 = 99.8% (acceptable -98% and achievable = 99.5%)

NH2 = 100%

The national OSCE is going to be changed to be implemented in jan \_ April 2019. It will support the hearing screening Diploma.

The hearing screening Elearning package is also to be updated. This is intended for release early in 2020.

There have been no reportable incidents for the FHT site .

There are now 4 exclusion criteria ( 2 new ones) for the hearing screening service . They are: Atresia, Microtia, Confirmed or strongly suspected bacterial meningitis, confirmed CMV and programmable ventricular peritoneal shunts.

### **AOB**

BDCS meeting 23/10/2019 – Lisa is attending this

Data Protection – NHS.net account is the most secure way of sending confidential information. Berkshire NHS foundation trust meant to be upgrading email system so it is more secure, however not sure if this has happened as yet. Need to be mindful when sending confidential information.

### **Next Meeting**

**Pan-BERKS CHSWG Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020**

**Location: Brants Bridge Healthspace Bracknell**

**Time:1.30-4pm**

**Focus of meeting: Deaf children with additional needs**