

The National Deaf Children's Society CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2019

Update on Local Engagement Team:

The new Local Engagement Team formed in March 2019. It has a wide ranging focus across the whole of England and aims to work closely with stakeholders. This will include supporting parent led campaigns to challenge and improve services for deaf children as well as identifying effective practice in all services for deaf children.

In future update reports, we will be sharing more of our work.

News for Services

Social Care	https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/being-deaf-friendly/information-for-professionals/social-care-and-family-support/
Early Years	<p>We have been working with Sheffield University to develop video clips about improving language and communication in deaf babies and toddlers 0–2 years. The clips are on YouTube and you can see them here. Sheffield University is now running a further study to see what professionals and parents think of the videos. We would appreciate it if you could pass on the relevant links below to professionals and parents:</p> <p>Questionnaire for families: https://forms.gle/7rJCpVJkizuHZr849</p> <p>Questionnaire for professionals: https://forms.gle/Ev29BcozchN9Etat7</p>

Resources – new, updated, out of date

New and updated resources:

- [Recognising the signs of hearing loss](#) (Web)
- [Bone conduction hearing devices](#) (Web)
- [Learning to drive](#) (Web)
- [Cued speech](#) (Web)
- [Protecting deaf children from bullying: For primary and secondary schools](#) (Print)
- [Bullying: Advice for parents of deaf children](#) (From print to web)
- [Assessments of deaf children and young people: For Teachers of the Deaf](#) (Print)
- [Understanding your child's hearing tests](#) (Print)
- [How radio aids can help](#) (Print)

You can find the link to the summer edition of Families magazine [here](#).

Events and Support for parents, deaf children and young people:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/our-events/>

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/roadshow-workshops/roadshow-service-resources/>

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

Parents can also become more involved in helping develop local services for deaf children. On our half day “Parents as Partners” workshops they’ll learn more about:

- What is a Children’s Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) and what should it do?
- Being an effective and confident parent representative
- How to represent themselves and others (parents and deaf children)
- How to strengthen relationships with professionals and make changes to services
- Sharing experiences and building peer support

Please contact Carla.Rose-Hardman@ndcs.org.uk for more information on having one of our workshops in your area.

Regional/Local updates:

Our Local Groups meetings this year are more informal and are there to support committee members running local deaf children’s societies: Bristol (08.02.20), London (07.03.20), Manchester (21.03.20), and Birmingham (date to be confirmed).

We are working alongside supporting parents and carers to support emerging new groups. We are developing a package of support to help these potential groups to start out informally and build a network for parents to connect with each other, and with us.

What’s next in the National Deaf Children’s Society?

Radio Aids: Following the release of research highlighting the benefits of using radio aids in the early years, many local areas have engaged with our campaign, reviewing policy and practice, making changes and sharing this information with us. However, we are aware that 40 local authority areas still do not provide or have not formally reviewed and refreshed their local policy. We will be liaising with these and formally requesting an agenda item at CHSWG meetings. If you have recently reviewed and refreshed your local policy please do email us a copy on the email at the bottom of this update so that we can amend our central records. If you are still to make changes there is information on our website to support you in this work [here](#).

Early Years’ Settings: The National Deaf Children’s Society is conducting an early years setting survey. This will help to improve our understanding of the support provided by specialist settings for young deaf children (0-5yrs), the good practice, challenges and issues that settings may face. Participation with this survey is by invitation, is currently live and closes on 18 October 2019. The findings will help support and inform our early years’ offer of information, advice and support and achieve the delivery of our strategic objectives.

Information that relates to our national campaigns:

Right to Sign campaign for a GCSE in British Sign Language:

After a substantial campaign, the Department for Education is now developing a new GCSE in British Sign Language (BSL). We are trying to keep the issue on the agenda but as yet subject experts in BSL have not yet been appointed. Once this is done, the process of drafting the subject content will begin which tends to take around 6-8 months. Ofqual will then consider the subject content and develop the assessment criteria. There will be two public consultations, one from DfE on the subject content, and one from Ofqual on the assessment criteria. These are expected to run concurrently. Any awarding bodies who are not currently recognised to provide GCSEs will need to apply for this recognition e.g. Signature. We expect the process to take at least two years.

Careers campaign

We will be launching its careers campaign in the near future and gradually you'll hear more and more about the campaign building up to Careers Week in March. In support of the campaign, workshops funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company are being delivered in 5 local areas this autumn to provide deaf young people with tailored careers information. The areas are Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, Haringey and Cheshire West. Next year a toolkit will be available to local authorities to enable them to provide their own workshops to deaf young people. Our supporting transitions resource for professionals is being updated and will be published this autumn.

SEND

The Department for Education has recently announced £700m additional SEND funding, as well as a new SEND review to be carried out. We'll be pressing the Government to make sure that as much as possible is directed to front-line services. In particular, we've been campaigning for the Department for Education to invest in a new bursary scheme to fund the training of the next generation of Teachers of the Deaf.

www.ndcs.org.uk/blog/why-the-government-needs-to-invest-in-teachers-of-the-deaf/

Ofsted

Ofsted have published a new education inspection framework. This will apply to early year settings, schools and colleges. Nearly all settings will be judged on overall effectiveness; quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; and personal development. In our view, the changes are largely positive. In particular:

- There is a focus on how providers design, implement and evaluate their curriculum.
- There is a stronger and much more explicit focus on SEND and the Equality Act through all the inspection documents. In terms of safeguarding, there is also a specific recognition of the fact that children with SEND may have additional vulnerabilities.
- The education inspection framework now explicitly refers to the Gatsby benchmarks for careers advice, something our careers campaign had been calling for.

Responses to consultations:

Several local and national consultation responses have been published on our website:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/our-responses-to-consultations/>

Research

READY

READY stands for Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth. It is a ground-breaking research study that we have commissioned. It is being delivered by a combined research team from the Universities of Manchester and Edinburgh, led by Professor Alys Young.

The research project is a longitudinal study aiming to track over 500 deaf young people (aged 15 to 18 at point of entry) annually for five years as they face crucial turning points in their lives and develop their aspirations and identities. READY will gather data not just on attainment, employment and lifestyle but also on wellbeing, risk and protective factors on the way to deaf young people achieving their potential. We believe the results will help us all to improve how we can best support deaf young people.

For more information, please visit the [study website](#), where you can also get in touch with the research team. We would appreciate you sharing this exciting research across your networks, and sign-posting eligible deaf young people to the website where they can sign up. Professionals can support young people to sign up.

Telling it like it is: Experiences of families living on a low income with deaf children

This report, produced by the University of Edinburgh and commissioned by us, looks at the views and experiences of families living on a low income and with deaf children. In particular, it explored the information and support families had about language development to meet the needs of their deaf child. There are some really interesting findings about the experiences of such families, many of which have diverse and complex backgrounds.

www.ndcs.org.uk/research

Hearing aid fittings

Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Manchester are running a research study developing a new method for checking how well babies can hear through their hearing aids. This may lead to improved infant hearing aid fittings in the future. The national Newborn Hearing Screening Programme has made it possible to identify hearing loss and fit hearing aids from a very young age, which we know helps a child's language and social development. It can sometimes be difficult to tell how well a hearing aid is fitted to young babies, and this study aims to address this.

The research team are looking for families across England, Scotland and Wales with babies who have been identified with a hearing loss. The babies would need to be no older than seven months at the start of the study.

www.ndcs.org.uk/blog/research-study-to-improve-clinical-practice-for-babies-with-hearing-loss/

Contact with the National Deaf Children's Society

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