

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Spring 2020

Update

The Local Engagement England team has continued to focus its work on supporting parents and young people in local campaigns to protect and improve local services affecting deaf children. We are delighted to have recently welcomed a new member of the team to support campaigns and influence decision-makers.

The team has been looking at how our campaign activism and influencing work at the local level can add social value from the perspective of those affected by our work. Examples include:

- A recent campaign where parents secured volunteer support from the local council's IT team to help develop their local digital engagement with families
- Parents who attended our *Parents as Partners* training now have positive influence across their local CHSWGs and have utilised funding awarded to them by re-shaping how deaf youth community support is delivered.
- An 8 year-old deaf boy who supported our media work by proudly sharing his deaf identity, has led to him becoming a local ambassador, featuring in an NDCS fundraising article and raising deaf awareness in his school and the local community.

News for Services

Education	<p>New guidance document: Best Practice Guidance on Collaborative Working between Qualified Teachers of the Deaf and Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT and BATOD)</p> <p>A new guidance document is now available to download. It has been developed by the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT) and the British Association for Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) and aims to improve outcomes for deaf children and young people through the provision of best practice guidance on how to provide effective collaboration between QToDs and SLTs. It replaces the 2007 position paper entitled 'Collaborative Working between Speech and Language Therapists and Teachers of the Deaf'.</p>
Audiology	See our resources for audiologists and other health professionals here .
Social Care	See our resources on social care and family support here .
Multi-agency	<p>New CHSWG guidance published</p> <p>NHS England and NHS Improvement have published new Guidance for Children's Hearing Services Working Groups (CHSWGs). This new guidance was written by us with the involvement of families from across England. Read more and download the guidance.</p>

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	<p>This new guidance aims to meet many of the needs that local CHSWGs have been asking for our support with. It shows how CHSWGs fit in with current quality standards and the national policy environment. It will help existing CHSWGs strengthen what they do and where areas don't have a CHSWG it explains why they should. The guidance has been written so that it is accessible to all members of local CHSWGs and we've included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case-studies that demonstrate good practice in action• Guidance on involving young people and parents in CHSWGs• Example documents that services might like to use – terms of reference, letters and flyers to parents, a glossary, and a template annual report.
Early Years	<p>Radio aids</p> <p>Our new webpage brings together some of our existing resources on radio aids in the early years, as well as some new case studies.</p> <p>We'll be issuing a Freedom of Information request to all local authorities across the UK to ask about the provision of radio aids to deaf children and the families.</p>
Post 14	<p>Next steps - Supporting successful transitions</p> <p>Our updated resource provides lots of practical information and checklists for professionals whose role involves helping deaf young people to think about their post-school or college plans. Download it now.</p>
Technology	<p>Potential safety issues with some Phonak Roger devices distributed via unauthorised sellers</p> <p>We have become aware of a potential safety issue with some Phonak products that have been distributed into the UK market via unauthorised sellers. The affected products have previously been scrapped by the Phonak manufacturing plant in the US due to faults or defects, but have found their way back into circulation through potentially unlawful means. The use of these devices represents a potential health and safety risk to the radio aid users and must be reported to Phonak UK as soon as possible.</p> <p>A letter was circulated to Local Authorities in July this year that contains further details on this matter. Click here for more information and to download the letter.</p>

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Information that relates to NDCS national campaigns:

SEND review

The Department for Education in England have announced a [new review](#) of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) framework. We expect there to be a formal consultation in spring 2020 but, in the meantime, we have identified five key areas for the Government to take action on:

- 1) Ensure adequate funding for local authority specialist education services
- 2) Address significant gaps in the specialist SEND workforce
- 3) Move towards more regional and national commissioning of services for children with low incidence needs
- 4) Strengthen the accountability framework
- 5) Ensure a stronger rights-based approach within the SEND system, recognising the importance of early intervention and the Equality Act

The SEND review follows a critical Education Committee inquiry into SEND support. In [our response to the inquiry](#), we set out the need for further action.

Responses to consultations:

Several local and national consultation responses have been published on [our website](#).

Research:

READY research

In the last update we told you about the [READY research](#) (Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth), 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. The research team are looking for more young people to take part in the research. Please see the [study website](#) for more information. Please also share this exciting research across your networks including colleagues working in Further Education, and sign-post eligible deaf young people to the website where they can sign up. Professionals can support young people to sign up.

Careers advice and support

We've published a [literature review](#) into what research says about careers support for disabled young people. The review also seeks to identify gaps in the research relating to deaf young people.

The review will be used to inform our exciting new campaign Deaf Works Everywhere, which we'll be launching in spring 2020.

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Resources – new, updated, out of date:

New and updated resources

- Family blogs: We've launched our [new series of blogs](#) written by parents of deaf children.
- [Top tips for making discos deaf-friendly](#). This was developed as the result of a Helpline query from a family member. (Webpage)
- [Playtime tips and ideas](#). This was previously a printed flyer but has been moved to web content with input from the British Toys and Play Association. (Webpage)
- A video to accompany a story in the autumn Families Magazine: Parents Alessandro and Deborah talk about their fear that their twins Zack and Dylan, who are severely to profoundly deaf, would never speak. Watch them describe how they developed their boys' speech and language in this video. '[Our deaf twins can speak English and Italian](#)'.

Families magazine

You can download the autumn 2019 edition of Families magazine [here](#) and the winter edition [here](#).

Our training courses for professionals

Find out about the latest courses available [here](#).

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

Parent/Carer Involvement Grant Scheme Guidance Document

Our Family Programme and Involvement Team has set up a grant for parents who may experience barriers to attending meetings and involvement events in their area which impact on deaf children and their families.

There are a number of ways that it is vital parents are involved with different services in their areas, and sometimes nationally, including CHSWGs, Local Offer Reference Groups, Parent Carer Forums, Special educational needs and disability (SEND) strategic groups, other local authority participation groups, and more. Parent's and carers can access grants for communication support, some travel costs, some childcare costs, and costs of materials for agreed work or actions from meeting– paper, printing, postage etc. A maximum grant of £300 per meeting/event can be applied for. For further information please contact Carla.Rose-hardman@ndcs.org.uk

Other support for families

[Find out about our events for families](#)

[Read about our Roadshow service resources](#)

Contact with NDCS:

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk