

## **CHSWG minutes from meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Attendees** : Kate Smith, Helen Begbie, Lisa Bull, Isabel Lugar and Catherine Sammons

**Apologies**: Val Holdich, Sarada Murthy, Olivia Whiteside, Eva Jolly, Helen Farthing, Nikki Donegan.

**Minutes of last meeting**: checked over and agreed.

### **Minutes of Pan Berks meeting**:

- Jacob Oakes from NDCS has now moved to a different department so will not be attending CHSWG meetings anymore. Eva will be replacing him.
- We had a discussion around events to be held around including dads (following on from a discussion had at the Pan-Berks meeting in Jan). An agreement was reached that it might be better to get the whole family and “peripheral” caregivers (e.g. grandparents or in-laws) involved to attend as well. In that way at this event there can then possibly be a small talk from e.g. SCS specifically for this “group” who usually hear things 2<sup>nd</sup> hand due to the nature of family setup and the parents (mums mostly) being the one attending professional appointments with the children.
- Also USAIS was asked if they would be interested in doing a talk at the next Pan Berks meeting.

### **Service updates**:

#### ***Southampton Auditory Implant Service:***

Nice guidelines for CI candidacy have been reviewed and they will now be accepting candidates with audiograms showing hearing loss of  $\geq 80$ dB at 2 or more frequencies from 1kHz onwards. Unsure about when this will be implemented, but will certainly open path for a lot more referrals.

#### ***Speech and Language Therapy:***

1. The commissioning of SLT services have reverted back to splitting into the East and West again.
2. BHFT won the tender for support for Slough school aged children – no details as how this will work just yet; however will have a named person looking after the hearing impaired children as well (possibly as part of Helen's team).

#### ***Audiology:***

1. Kirstie B will be going on maternity leave in January.
2. Holly went on maternity leave in August and will be off for a year.
3. Louise H (adult lead) is on sick leave for 1 month so is expected to return mid November.
4. Trying to backfill adult appointments with locums in order to release B6+7's to do paediatric work.
5. Also looking at changing hearing aid manufacturer as Phonak have put their prices up yet again and becoming too expensive for us to sustain with current budget – this has a knock-on effect for education with radio aids etc.

6. Education trying to push for East and West to use same hearing aids to make it easier for their equipment inventory.
7. Referral numbers have increased due to mostly referrals from school nurses in Slough doing the school entry screen - suspecting a lot of children being referred in unnecessarily, so Kirstie is auditing and we have started doing 15min appointments to "rescreen".

#### **SCS:**

1. 20 year anniversary being celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> November at Thames Valley Adventure Playground: lots of activities planned including 2 young adults with hearing impairment coming to speak.
2. Wokingham still looking like it will be SCS's new hosting authority rather than RBWM – hopefully by the next financial year everything will have been changed over including payroll and line management.
3. Have a bigger caseload same as Audiology due to more new babies being referred and more young people being supported in college with radio aids etc.
4. Signposting people on website for self-help tools to empower them, rather than supporting them in person.
5. SCS moving away from using paper completely – referral forms now electronically available on website.
6. Multi-agency day planned for 29<sup>th</sup> May.
7. *Change in unilateral hearing loss support pathway:* They are now providing and Easylink (Inspiro-old FM system) on low or no gain hearing aid in the good ear -> SCS support will then be initiated from that. Have already fitted 2 children in the West who seem to be benefitting.

Query raised around the school screen and where it is still performed: Isabel L reported WAM already stopped this a while ago. Bracknell and Slough still screen and Slough using a private company as far as we are aware with minimal training, which might explain the high referral rate to Audiology. Lisa B reported that the West is also changing to ask in only if parents are concerned – not have a routine screen. There are some stats around this as an audit was performed by Catriona (RBH) – Lisa will fwd this info to IL.

Isabel L requested if attendees will mind to review the information for the planned new website for hearing aid balance (paediatric section only) – agreed she will email it for them to look at.

As most people have not been able to make the last 2 meetings, it was agreed that Lisa B will email to find out which day of the week is best to hold meetings to be able to get better attendance. A date for the next meeting will be set after this has been determined.

END