

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (1)

Local Engagement Team Update

This CHSWG update is the first of two updates this autumn.

An important piece of news from our team is the remit of our local engagement work has expanded to include Wales and Scotland. Across all three nations and the Channel Isles and Isle of Man, we will work with CHSWGs and services, local authorities and NHS partners to support them as they continue to improve support for deaf children and young people and their families, working closely with other teams and colleagues at the National Deaf Children's Society. If you have any questions about our team and what we do, we can be contacted via localengagement@ndcs.org.uk.

There has been huge interest in our first two online workshops for professionals involved in CHSWGs, which are taking place on 6th October and 23rd November (details below). These sessions are now both fully booked and we have a waiting list for subsequent sessions to be arranged in the coming months. We will share dates of these sessions as soon as possible.

We hope services will continue their important work towards recovery from the severe disruptions of the past 18 months. Some of the key issues we will be looking at particularly this term includes: data attainment and attendance; availability of catch-up support; and access to equipment for deaf children and young people. We will be focused on recovery in audiology and ENT services, including waiting lists and pathways. We are very interested to hear about the development of CMV pathways.

As the charity prepares for our 2021 'Let's Work it Out' conference in November (details below), we will be very interested to hear about post-16 transition support local services are providing to deaf young people. We encourage CHSWG members to get in touch if they have positive stories or innovative approaches to post-16 support to share with us and other services.

Despite the difficulties the pandemic has posed for deaf children's support, we are aware many local services are now looking at new and positive practice developed in response to the pandemic that might be maintained going forward. If you would like to share anything please get in touch, or you may wish to include this for discussion in your CHSWG agenda.

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Other news for services

<p>Education</p>	<p>Coronavirus and deaf education Our blog for families continues to set out the reasonable adjustments that we expect education settings to make where any coronavirus restrictions remain in place.</p> <p>Exams We published a blog on results and setting out the latest information on appealing grades given via the teacher assessments implemented during coronavirus.</p> <p>Impact of coronavirus We heard from hundreds of parents of deaf children about the impact of coronavirus on their child's education. Read more about the survey results and what we'll be doing next in our blog.</p>
<p>Audiology</p>	<p>Hearing checks for children in residential schools NHS England are seeking views from professionals throughout the UK on hearing services for children and young people with learning disabilities and/or autism. The results will be used to support the development of a hearing checks programme for children and young people in residential schools. You can submit your views until 30 September. Take the survey now</p>

Scotland news

Child Disability Payment

[Our web page](#) details the change from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Child Disability Payment in Scotland.

Wales news

Wales ALN

[Our web page](#) summarises the changes to how additional support is provided to children and young people aged 0-25 with additional learning needs (ALN) in Wales. The changes will start to be implemented from 1st September 2021 and more content will follow. If you missed our webinar for professionals about the new system, you can [watch the recording](#) now.

Online session for families on ALN reforms (Wales)

We are running an online session for families to find out more about the ALN reforms. Families can book on [here](#).

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Welsh Youth Parliament

We are delighted to announce that, together with Talking Hands, NDCS will be supporting 2 deaf young people between 11 – 18 to become a member of the Welsh Youth Parliament. Being a member of the Welsh Youth Parliament provides young people with the opportunity to make their voices heard at a national level. To have a deaf young person representing the issues that matter most to deaf young people is hugely exciting! We are running an [information session](#) via Zoom on the 9 October, 10.30am – 12.00pm for young people who would like to find out more about being a Welsh Youth Parliament member and how to apply.

Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns

SEND review in England

In England, the Government will be reviewing support for children with SEND soon – we expect a consultation about this before the end of the year.

We've seen some stories in the media suggesting the Government might want to reduce the number of Education, Health and Care plans. We'd want a guarantee from Government that they will increase support & early intervention for deaf children, before looking at EHC plans. We also have some other suggestions for what the review should cover in our [template email](#). Your MP can help raise this with Government. Please do personalise your email with your experiences, as this makes it far more powerful.

Deaf Works Everywhere

Many of you will have seen our exciting “Deaf Works Everywhere” campaign. Next for this important campaign is to find out about what information will be helpful for parents to have and know, to enable them to give the best support to their deaf child. What will be most useful for parents to help their child move into the world of work? How can we help get that information to parents?

We have a drop in on Zoom on **Thursday 30th September from 7-8pm** for parents of deaf children at secondary school age and above (up to 25), to share their views. We'd love to hear from parents who are starting to think about their child's career options or making those choices right now. Contact Carla.Rose-Hardman@ndcs.org.uk for an invite and we look forward to seeing parents there.

Research

UCL Baby Soundscapes Project

We're supporting this project which aims to improve our understanding of the everyday sound environments of deaf babies and toddlers in order to find out whether radio aid technology (which is commonly used with older children) might be helpful for very young children. The research team are looking for parents of children aged 3 to 18 months (hearing or deaf) to take part. Visit the [project website](#) to find out more.

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Resources and training

New and updated resources

- Our [Quality Standards for early years factsheet](#) and [self-audit tool](#) has been updated.
- The Autumn edition of [Families magazine](#) is out now.

Professionals Working Together at CHSWGs

Are you involved as a professional with your local Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) already? Have you been invited to take part or would like to go along? Our [free workshop](#) will give you the tools you need to really understand your role. You will meet other professionals who are also part of CHSWG to share ideas and experiences. We'll think more about the strategic impact a CHSWG can have and how you can support your group to make a real difference for deaf children and their families. Together we'll also discuss how you can play a key role in making sure that families and deaf young people have a voice at CHSWG. Our sessions in October and November are now fully booked, but you can [register your interest](#) and we will let you know when more dates are available.

Parents as Partners – CHSWG training for parents

Our next free workshop for parents is on 6 November and [booking is now open here](#). Please do encourage parents to join us. It is open to parents who want to join CHSWG or who may already be members but want to find out more about their role in your group.

Tickets on sale now for our 2021 Conference Let's Work it Out: Deaf young people and employment

30 November 9am to 5pm

If you are a professional working with deaf young people (aged 13 to 25 years) who are starting to think about moving into employment or gaining work experience, this is the event for you. Deaf people work in a wide range of roles from doctors to musicians to electricians. With the right support deaf people can work everywhere but are twice as likely to be unemployed as their hearing peers. Deaf young people are often poorly informed about their rights and the support available to them in the workplace. However, together we can make a difference in closing the employment gap.

Can't join us for the whole day? Don't worry, you can book your place and access the individual presentations for up to 29 days after the event, so you can watch them whenever suits you best.

[Find out more and book here](#).

A Bright Start for Every Deaf Child

[Multiple dates in September, October, and November on Zoom](#).

This series of six free sessions will provide practitioners who currently (or plan to) support deaf children in early years settings, with the understanding and tools to support deaf children. We'll cover a range of deaf-specific topics, with information about learning and development, the impact deafness may have on a child in an early years setting, and how to improve childcare provision.

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Session topics include deaf awareness, language and communication, mental health and wellbeing, parent partnerships, sensory stories, British Sign Language. We'll also support you to plan how you can apply your new skills for individual children in your setting.

Online training modules

Our expert trainers deliver a variety of [online training workshops](#) providing you with the most up-to-date and relevant information so that you can help deaf children and young people achieve their full potential. Each workshop is interactive, informative and designed to build your specialist knowledge and help you to implement best practice approaches. We have options for full days, multiple afternoons or multiple evenings so you can choose a session that suits you.

- [Healthy Minds](#)
- [Raising a deaf child facilitator training - CPD accredited](#)
- [Deaf awareness for early years practitioners - CPD accredited](#)
- [Supporting deaf children in early years settings - CPD accredited.](#)

Healthy Minds Message Board

Have you already completed our Healthy Minds training? If so, you can find extra support through our new message board. We've created the Healthy Minds message board to continue helping you run activities that support the emotional health and well-being of deaf children and young people. It is a free, secure, private online platform where you can get support and ideas from other professionals who have completed the Healthy Minds training programme, and share your experience of using the Healthy Minds resource with the deaf children and young people that you work with.

You can access it through our [online training portal](#) using the login details you previously used to access our training.

Events and support for parents, deaf children and young people

Our events for families

At the National Deaf Children's Society we want a Bright Start for every deaf child. We team have a [range of events for families](#) who have babies and early years children that anyone can get involved in.

From "Supporting Parents New to Hearing Loss" just after their child has received their diagnosis, to our dedicated "Baby & Toddler Sessions" that are fun and engaging, to sessions supporting early learning and communication, we are there to support that early years journey. Our new "Baby Sign" classes are proving popular with families keen to start their sign communication journey, no matter what their choice of communication method.

Do encourage families to join us at any stage of their journey so we can provide some support, they can meet other families and feel less isolated.

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Connecting Families

Our network of [local deaf children's societies](#) are starting to organise activities once again. Please do share the link to our map so that families can see if there's a group near them and to get in touch to see what's going on.

Connecting parents and carers with other families can be a real lifeline. We want to encourage these kinds of connections – whether through local deaf children's societies, other groups, events, online forums, or other online platforms. There are lots of options depending on what families want to do. And if any parents/carers – or local professionals – are interested in getting a group going, do [get in touch](#) to see how we can help.

Changemaker Groups for Young People

We're launching brand new changemaker groups to empower deaf young people aged 13 to 18 wanting to take action on issues that matter to them with the skills, knowledge and experience to speak up for deaf young people and improve their local communities. They'll be brainstorming creative ideas to everyday problems, such as making public transport more accessible, raising deaf awareness in their school or community, or developing public spaces. Please encourage the young people you work with [to become a changemaker and meet other deaf young people](#).

Young People's Advisory Board (YAG)

The NDCS Young People's Advisory Board are keen to find out the experiences of deaf young people in the classroom. You can help them by kindly sharing [this survey](#) with any deaf young people aged 10-18, or their parents. There are BSL videos for each question and its available in Welsh too. We will be sharing the results of this survey in early 2022.

Contact

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk