

CHSWG meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025
10.00am-11.30am via Teams

Present: Laura Price (LP) -Clinical lead in paediatric audiology Musgrove Park Hospital- Chair and minutes

Catherine Moffat (CM) – Audiology Clinical lead Yeovil District Hospital

Dr Jenny Langlands (JL) –Associate Specialist Paediatrics

Jo Hil (JH)– Advisory Teacher of the Deaf and Educational Audiologist

Jo Wheatley (JW) – NDCS representative

Alistair Mitchell-Inness (AMI)– ENT consultant

Apologies: Angela Reece (AR) – Newborn hearing screening manager

Kay Croker (KC)– Speech and language therapist

Emma Purdy (EP) – Speech and language therapist at West of England hearing implant programme

Stephanie Scutt (SS) – Parent representative

Chloe Smith (CS)– Parent representative



Ref:	No:		Action
	1 1.1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	2 2.1	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None	
	3 3.1	MATTERS ARISING Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted by those present.	
	4 4.1	<p>TEAM UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents representatives: No issues/feedback. NSHP – updates provided by AR: Service performance report shared with CHSWG members (see appendix). This shows full staffing, no concerns, no incidents and good feedback from service users. <p><i>Key performance indicators</i></p> <p>Figures for quarter 2: NH1 99.2% 959/967 (fall in YDH this quarter from 100% to 98.8) NH2 100% 10/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audiology Taunton- updates provided by LP: -No changes in paediatric team staffing. Audiology manager is undertaking a 12-month secondment as project manager alongside the RNID. During this time, we have a new Audiology deputy manager in post, this is Julia McCarthy who was previously an adult clinic lead at Musgrove Park Hospital (MPH). -No significant change in waiting times. All ok apart from follow up VRA (linked to limited room capacity). Since the last meeting we have started a two-tester clinic in an additional room at MPH. This creates capacity for children who require 2 members of staff for their test with play audiometry, but don't need VRA. This protects capacity for VRA appointments. Minor works were completed to adapt the room. Our only issue has been 	

	<p>finding enough patients to book in to the room, but we have now completed some resource planning to guide us. The room currently doesn't yet have a speaker to complete sound field play audiology, when it does we expect to have more demand.</p> <p>-One member of team is in the process of completing M-level module in newborn assessment. This will include an external practical assessment, so we will hopefully have a member of team who has been signed off as competent externally.</p> <p>-Claire Stuart (CS) and LP attended the regional update meeting for paediatric audiology improvement programme in September. As a region the programme is ahead of other areas in UK. There was a focus on ways to collaborate as a region and share best practice. CS was invited to present on our VRA set up as it was recognised as an example of excellent practice. Claire shared some of the things she has implemented since being in the team like music files.</p> <p>-We now have the written report from external visit in January. Paediatric leads and Julia are meeting with ICB next week to discuss progress since the site visit and priorities going forward.</p> <p>-Two members of paediatric team will be sharing their work at BAA conference this year via poster presentations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiology Yeovil – updates provided by CM: Yeovil diagnostic centre due to open in January 2026. • Paediatrics – updates provided by JL: Discussions around CMV testing for newborns who don't pass NHSP/are found to have permanent hearing loss are ongoing. JL will keep us updated. • ENT – updates provided by AMI: 	
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	<p>-There has been a gradual increase in Yeovil patients being seen by MPH consultants at Yeovil rather than being seen by Dorset County Hospital.</p> <p>-There are continuing issues with waiting list times. A recent contract allows outsourced consultants to help reduce waiting list time with Saturday operations. Grommets are included in list of operations outsourced therefore this may reduce waiting list times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and Language Therapy – updates provided by KC: One of the 3 SLT's working with children with hearing loss has left and now working in different area. KC and Laura Talbot (LT) remain in post. A replacement for the SLT who has left will hopefully be arranged- awaiting confirmation on this. • West of England Hearing Implant Programme- updates provided by EP: -A new ToD Katie Morgan joined team in September and the ToD team is now back at full capacity. One adult audiologist will be returning from maternity leave at the end of this month, and another adult audiologist will be starting a phased return from long term sick leave over the next few months. • Education – updates provided by JH: -Rosie Youngs is now back managing hearing and vision support teams. - An Educational Audiologist still on long term sick leave. -Jo Hill covering all Educational Audiologists responsibilities. 	
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	<p>Teachers of deaf and areas (roughly sorted):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jo Hill – North and South Sedgemoor ○ Deb Young – Taunton/Bridgwater/Wellington & West Somerset ○ Jo Walsh – Mendip (West/East and Central) plus Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster ○ Lisa Rohde – South Somerset ○ Samantha Edwards – East Mendip (Training) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voluntary agencies <p>NDCS - updates provided by JW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chloe's Little Ears Somerset group has joined up with Deb Buller of Deafinate Matters CIC to create more reach to families. It means Chloe can apply for grants and funding to be able to financially afford group activities and subsidise days out for deaf children and their families going forward. I'm continuing to support Chloe with her group however she needs me to. - I have also been chatting to Deb Buller about her working with NDCS in a new community project we are looking to trial. Family sign language sessions will be informal sessions aimed at supporting family life hopefully starting next year. It won't be a formal qualification but more for use within a family setting to support full communication at home if families chose to go down that avenue. Nothing is confirmed yet. - I have been supporting families 1-2-1 in the community that have been referred to me. Please keep me in mind if you feel any of your families could benefit from NDCS support alongside their professional support. - I've attended a few of the North Devon DCS group outings over the summer and recent half term after they extended their reach to welcome Somerset families whilst our group builds momentum. I was at the Teddy bears picnic (August) and diggerland (October), and we have a Christmas trip to Polar Express train in December. 	
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5	5.1	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report by Dr Camilla Kingdon is due to be published later today. The times run an article yesterday around it- this was discussed at CHSWG and the effects it may have on parents reading it. - A discussion took place around the for procedures children with PCHI requiring aetiological investigations. Currently protocols say children should be referred to Paediatrics and ENT for specialist opinions/investigations. Some members of team feel for some children just being referred to Paediatrics is appropriate, particularly due to waiting times. Consensus not formed today, we will reach out to subject matter experts in the Southwest for advice and guidance on this and enquire what is happening in other services. In the meantime staff to continue following agreed protocols and guidance. - (<i>Discussed following meeting</i>): Recently there have been several requests on grommet discharge forms for swim plugs to be made as standard. AMI and LP discussed – confirmed swim plugs will not to be made as routine for post operative grommet children, only if they experience any issues with getting ears wet would we go on to do this. <p>Outstanding matters from previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Who's who' leaflet is now complete and available on Somerset foundation trust webpage. • Late identified permanent childhood hearing impairment protocol- draft has been written and close to being signed off. <p>Case studies:</p> <p>JL, CM, AMI and LP stayed for case study part of meeting.</p>	<p>LP to contact subject matter experts for advice.</p> <p>AMI and LP to update respective teams.</p>

	6	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 09-03-2026 10.00am -11.30 am via teams	
	7	Appendix  Update Proforma NHSP Somerset FT Sr <u>Kingdon review of children's hearing services: final report - GOV.UK</u>	
	8	Abbreviations: CHSWG: Children hearing services working group RNID: Royal National Institute for Deaf People CMV: Cytomegalovirus PCHI: Permanent childhood hearing impairment VRA: Visual Reinforcement Audiometry NHSP: Newborn hearing screening programme KPI: Key performance indicator S4H: Smart for hearing ENT: Ear nose and Throat SLT: Speech and language therapist WEHIP: West England Hearing Implant Programme NDCS: National Deaf Children Society TOD: Teacher of the deaf ICB: Integrated care board SENCO: Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator YDC: Yeovil diagnostic centre BAA: British Academy of Audiology CIC: Community interest company	

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