

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Children's Hearing Services Working Group

Annual Report 2015

Introduction

The Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary forum of parents, and professionals from health, education, Social Care and the voluntary sector involved in support services for children and young people with a hearing impairment, living in Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole.) The East Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole CHSWG and the West Dorset Audiology Group merged in early 2010, and this is the sixth Annual Report.

Activity

1. Two CHSWG meetings were held in 2015. Attendance has continued to be good, with an on-going attempt to improve parent representation.
2. The review of 2nd tier audiology services in East Dorset/ Bournemouth and Poole (2013) produced some clear recommendations supported by CHSWG; the CCG are working with stakeholders on an implementation plan to bring about change to the provision of the service, with a target date of October 2016.
3. Consultant Paediatric review of the causes of sensori-neural hearing loss in children in Dorset is well established now, with annual presentation of the findings to CHSWG. Minor discrepancies in referral criteria need to be resolved. Guidance from BAAP/BAPA is followed.
4. The NHSP continues to meet targets for children with both bilateral and unilateral hearing loss, with 99.3% babies completing the whole screening process within 35 days of birth. HV roles have moved to local authorities, with some consequential practical issues which are being resolved.
5. Close working with the local Auditory Implant Centre is now well established.

Recommendations for 2016

1. Continue to support the CCG aims for re-commissioning of the 2nd Tier Audiology service in east Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.
2. Consolidate good local joint working, liaison and communication, and continue to try to ensure parental involvement in our CHSWG.
3. Review the Terms of Reference.