

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

## **Annual Report 2017**

### **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 eighth Annual Report.

### **Activity**

1. Two CHSWG meetings were held in 2017, one in the East and one in the West of the County. Attendance has continued to be good. Representation from Social Care is established and parent representation has been increased.
2. The new Audiology Clinic opened at Canford Heath in April 2017 providing 2<sup>nd</sup> tier audiology services in East Dorset/ Bournemouth and Poole. The feedback so far is very positive
3. The New Born Hearing Screening Programme has continued to achieve above the National Acceptable Level in the two Key Performance Indicators of (1) completing screening on new born babies and (2) arranging follow up assessments where necessary.
4. Dorchester Audiology has increased the number of staff able to deliver Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing. The department is continuing to pursue accreditation by IQIPS (Improving Quality in Physiological Services)
5. The Hearing Support Service has continued to be fully staffed. Feedback from parents and from settings indicates a high level of satisfaction with all areas of service delivery.
6. Dorset Deaf Children's Society has continued to be very active throughout the year, arranging a number of activities for different age groups and providing a very valuable support network for parents.

7. Consultant Paediatricians are continuing to offer to see all babies referred through the NHSP with moderate or greater hearing losses, or with mild bilateral losses. Children with a severe to profound bilateral loss are then seen annually if parents wish to, until school entry.

### **Recommendations for 2017**

1. Invite professionals, agencies or companies to future meetings to give presentations of interest to the CHSWG group
2. Consolidate good local joint working, liaison and communication, continue to develop links with social care teams and maintain parent representation.
3. Ensure all recommendations from inspections and reviews are put in place

Sue MacDermott  
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