

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

Annual Report 2012

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 the delivery of Audiology services to children and young people 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 third Annual Report.

Activity

1. Two CHSWG meetings were held in 2012. Attendance was not as good as last year, with (for unavoidable reasons) poorer parental involvement. Efforts to involve more parents will be undertaken in 2013. .
2. The Primary Care Trust has undertaken a review of the second tier audiology service in Bournemouth, Poole and East Dorset and will report on this in early 2013. A repeat audit of the Infant Distraction Test, at eight months, in East Dorset confirmed concerns that babies were not being seen in a timely manner.
3. The latest (4th) QA assessment of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) began in October 2012, and should be completed by March 2013. This is a 'remote' inspection, without a visit planned.
4. The NHSP continues to meet all targets for children with bilateral hearing loss. There is ongoing work to meet the targets for children with unilateral loss.
5. The Terms of Reference of the Group were reviewed and updated. Andrea Arnott, Newborn Hearing Screening Local Manager, will take over as Chair from May 2013.
6. Speech and Language Therapy input for children with hearing impairment has been increased, with four days a week of therapy time across the County, up from two previously.

7. A clinical review of case notes for all children diagnosed with a bilateral sensori-neural hearing loss (SNHL), either via the NHSP or later, takes place annually and is presented to the CHSWG in the May meeting. An audit of the clinical care pathways will be undertaken in the future.

Recommendations for 2013

1. Implement changes following review of 2nd tier service in East Dorset
2. Explore ways of improving parental representation into CHSWG
3. Develop links with new Clinical Commissioning Groups (Paediatrics and Audiology are likely to be commissioned by different Groups)