



CHSWG

Tuesday 23rd January 2018
Saltisford

Present:

John Atkins, Ann Robey, Andy Roach, Elizabeth Roche,
Veronica Roscoe, Jane Carter.

1. Apologies

Action

David Heap, Joanne Davis, Carolyn Dando, Bridget Hughes, Amber Vaggers,
Angela Yeomans.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 12th October 2017

- JC to chase Ross Caws in relation to updated Hearing Text on Local Offer
- JA fed back the response from Sue Green about Bid, the new BSL Interpretation Provider. JC to forward the contact details and video clip to Jo Rolls to include within the Local Offer.

JC

JC

3. LA/IDS Update

JC conveyed the very sad news of Sue Robus' death. Sue had managed Warwickshire's SENDIAS / Parent Partnership, since the very beginning in the early 1990s. She was hugely respected for her considerable experience and expertise; she has made a significant contribution to the strategic direction of SEND in Warwickshire and will be greatly missed. John Atkins paid tribute and asked that CHSWG's condolences be passed on to the family.

With Ann's intention to retire this summer, JC will be submitting a business case to Pat Tate / Chris Malone (the Head of Education & Learning) to replace Ann's role as County Lead for Hearing.

Sadly Angie Wootten left at Christmas. Whilst we were sad to lose Angie's considerable teaching experience - she left to concentrate on her role working as a Tutor, training Teachers of the Deaf at the University of Birmingham and research for the Welsh Assembly on what works for deaf children – we recognise that ultimately the profession as a whole will benefit from this vital work. Her teaching commitment is currently been covered by Alison Merchant on two days' supply a week.

Like many LAs effort is currently focussed on transferring the remaining Statements of SEN to EHCPs. Unfortunately SENDAR has two Plan Coordinators off on long term sick, which is hampering progress. SENDAR has previously used a Plan Writing service but the quality has not been good and more effort has then been spent making improvements.

JC has just received an MP's query about whether Warwickshire will be issuing FM Radio Aids to Preschool children. Ann explained that to date the Hearing Advisory Team has allocated FM Radio Aids on a case by case basis to pre-school children for use in Early Years' Settings, the home and in the community. Her experience suggests that the families who benefit the most are those where the child has already started to locate sound and is already establishing good hearing aid use. Andy described his family's extremely positive experience of using a radio aid from an early age, especially in the car and at family gatherings. Ann and Veronica made CHSWG aware of a new National Deaf Children's Society / Ear Foundation report "Using radio aids with pre-school deaf children". Members agreed that JC should respond to the MP outlining the current position but saying we intend to convene a multi-agency group to agree local area guidelines in the light of the NDCS/EF recommendations.

**JC
AR/VR**

4. Health contribution to EHC Plans

ER raised the issue with Sophie Dahlman before she went on Maternity Leave. The problem is that Health can only respond if they are asked. VR confirmed that Audiology is very rarely consulted and, if they are, requests to attend meetings arrive too late. SENDAR's complaint is that they don't know who is involved and rely on schools to alert them. JA pointed out that the obvious people to ask are parents.

JC

JC to talk to SENDAR and David Widdas, the Designated Medical Officer.

5. Health Update

- VR covering at George Eliot until at least the end of February. It is a difficult role with only 50% of the screeners in post. Although they are currently recruiting for the two who have left, once they have started they will require training with an experienced screener. Breaches are inevitable. Veronica is also covering the ABRs.
- Carolyn Dando has now left to join Elective Care Management.
- Recruitment and retention of Audiologists is a national issue. Trusts can employ any number of newly qualified staff, but there is a significant shortage of experienced paediatric audiologists prepared to take on permanent posts; locum work is far more lucrative.

Future Meetings

Tuesday 24th April 2018, SB1 CR1 GF, 3.00pm-4.30pm

ALL