

News for services

Education

Coronavirus update

We've updated our remote support, setting out some key considerations that we think should be considered when deciding if and how to provide specialist support remotely to families and deaf children. The blog also sets out our position on catch-up support to deaf children.

[Read our blog](#)

We're aware that in some parts of the country, covid-19 restrictions (including the use of face coverings) are being retained or reintroduced into education settings. Our education blog continues to set out the need for educating settings to make all necessary reasonable adjustments to ensure that deaf children are not disadvantaged by any such restrictions.

[Read more](#)

Teacher of the Deaf apprenticeships

A new apprenticeship is being developed in England that would allow teachers to gain the mandatory qualification to become a Teacher of the Deaf through the apprenticeship route. This has the potential to allow local authorities and settings to access funding from the apprenticeship levy to cover the cost of training new Teachers of the Deaf.

[Find out more](#)

Free inset sessions for education settings

We have launched a new Educational Membership offer, designed for mainstream and specialist early years, school and further education establishments. From just £15-£30 per year, Educational Membership will provide settings with ongoing information and resources to help close the attainment gap for deaf pupils, and increase deaf awareness across the whole school community.

As a member, settings will be able to access:

- **One free inset session a year** delivered by our Roadshow team
- 10% discount on additional training products and events
- Regular updates on education policies and practices that affect deaf children
- The ability to borrow devices and technology that improve deaf children's experience in school.

[Find out more.](#)

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

<p>Education</p>	<p>Education Appeals Team Update</p> <p>Our Education Appeals Team has a new Head of Appeals, Katherine Vowles, who can be contacted at Katherine.vowles@ndcs.org.uk. Katherine is happy to answer any questions about the service we offer families who wish to appeal a decision regarding education. General information about the service is on our website.</p>
<p>Audiology</p>	<p>NDCS is currently engaging in quality assurance and service improvement in local paediatric audiology services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAA / NHSEI working group looking at the findings of the rapid review of paediatric audiology in England • Quality standards audits of paediatric audiology services in Wales • 'Sharing Ideas Event' about improving hearing checks in special schools
<p>Multi-agency</p>	<p>Department for Health and Social Care - Transparent mask pilot panel</p> <p>As you will know we have been working to improve the availability of transparent masks, particularly in healthcare settings since the beginning of the pandemic. Effective and safe transparent masks can allow deaf people to lip read and better communicate in situations where masks must be worn.</p> <p>The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has been looking into this issue for some time and has been working with industry to find a mask that is suitable for health care settings where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is needed. They are getting very close to having some transparent masks (FFP2) that meet the required standard, which is very exciting.</p> <p>However, in order to understand whether these masks are effective at improving day-to-day communication, as well as being comfortable to wear for many hours, they are looking to conduct a pilot across a range of settings. If you are interested in being involved in a pilot of transparent masks please contact Kim Diprose at Kim.Diprose@dhsc.gov.uk for further information.</p> <p>Please be aware that the pilot will be limited in scope and numbers, so registering an interest doesn't necessarily mean that your organisation will be selected. DHSC are looking for settings that cover a range of different needs – including the needs of deaf staff and service users (children, young people and adults) – but also other groups, such as those with dementia or autism. There will also be some resource required to take part in the pilot, so do bear this in mind.</p>

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

<p>Early Years</p>	<p>Support right from the start for families</p> <p>As we move through the next few months, we will be re-introducing in person events to complement our great variety of online events that are available to all families. This will be a great way to connect families and the first events being introduced in person are “Supporting Parents New to Hearing Loss” for any family that have had a diagnosis in the last 18 months or so.</p> <p>We also have a brand-new event we’d like you to share with families whose child has a temporary hearing loss called “My Child’s Glue Ear” as we know many families who have a child with glue ear are seeking information and support.</p> <p>Read more about all of our events.</p>
<p>Post 14</p>	<p>Health and Disability Green Paper</p> <p>We recently responded to a Department for Work and Pensions consultation on their Health and Disability Green Paper. Our response calls for better support for deaf young people when accessing employment and benefits support.</p> <p>Read our response</p> <p>Deaf Works Everywhere</p> <p>The Local Engagement Team is keen to hear from services about their careers support and use of DWE toolkit ahead of the DWE Conference at the end of November. Please contact us on localengagement@ndcs.org.uk</p>

Scotland news

Changemakers

Deaf young people interested in tackling the issues that affect them can [join](#) our Changemakers group, taking place online.

CRIDE 2020

The CRIDE 2020 Scotland report has now been published. You can find this online at [here](#) .

BSL National Plan Progress Report

The British Sign Language National Plan Progress Report has been published by the Scottish Government. You can find the BSL version [here](#) and the English and Easyread version [here](#).

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

Wales news

Changemakers

Deaf young people interested in tackling the issues that affect them can [join](#) our Changemakers group, taking place online.

Welsh Youth Parliament

Deaf young people now have the opportunity to vote for their National Deaf Children's Society Welsh Youth parliament representative. Voting takes place [online](#) for deaf young people aged 11-18 and closes on November 15.

Quality Standards for Implantable Devices

We'd welcome your support to encourage families in Wales to take our [implantable device survey](#) by December 5 to feed into the creation of new quality standards.

Information on National Deaf Children's Society national campaigns

SEND review in England

In England, the Government will be reviewing support for children with SEND soon – we were expecting the review to start early in the new year with a full public consultation.

As part of the SEND Review we would like to see:

1. More Teachers of the Deaf and more money for specialist education services.
2. Deaf awareness to be included in all Initial Teacher Training.
3. Mandatory involvement of Teachers of the Deaf in progress checks for all deaf children at age two.
4. The Government to set out its expectations for reasonable adjustments in education under the Equality Act.
5. Stronger guidance and specialist careers advice with links to employment schemes.

If you haven't already contacted your MP using our [template email](#) please do. Your MP can help raise these important issues with Government. Please do personalise your email with your experiences, as this makes it far more powerful.

British Sign Language GCSE Update

New Minister of State for Education, Robin Walker MP, has [publicly committed to advancing the development of a GCSE in British Sign Language](#). Progress on the GCSE was delayed due to COVID-19 but the Government has said they will consult publicly on the draft subject content in early 2022.

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

Subtitling finally resumes on Channel 4

You may have noticed that there were subtitling problems on some of the major broadcasters earlier in the Autumn. Channel 4, BBC and Channel 5 programming were all affected. Problems persisted at Channel 4 with subtitles unavailable for over a month. [We wrote to OFCOM](#) to encourage them to take Channel 4 to task over the length of the outage. The subtitles are now working again but some audio description and British Sign Language services are still affected.

Research

Deaf Children Today 2021 report

Each year since 2018, we have run an annual survey for parents and carers of deaf children aged 0-25 from across the UK. The survey helps us understand the challenges facing deaf children and young people and their families, and allows us to annually monitor the 'state of the nation' in a variety of areas, including: identification, services, language and communication, early years, school, careers and transitions, life and activities, general challenges and concerns. We use the results to inform our campaigns, support the development of our services and to make sure we're on track with our strategy.

We have consent to use the information for analysis and reporting, and to help improve services for deaf children. So we wanted to make sure that professionals who work with deaf children can also learn from the data more easily. We've created a report in a visual, interactive Google Data Studio dashboard for you to explore. Just click [here](#) to start exploring.

Understanding how babies and toddlers listen

UCL are continuing to recruit families to participate in a research project about how babies and toddlers might benefit from radio aids. Please share with any families in your area.

[Read more](#)

Resources and training

Do you support deaf young people as they make the transition from education into employment?

Deaf people work in a wide range of roles from doctors to musicians to electricians. With the right support deaf people can work everywhere but are twice as likely to be unemployed as their hearing peers. Together we can make a difference in closing the employment gap. Join our upcoming conference: **Let's Work it Out: Deaf young people and employment**, 30 November 2021, 9am to 5pm.

Get to grips with the latest sector developments and be ready to put new practical ideas and best practice learning into action. We have a line-up of outstanding high-profile speakers, including fabulous deaf young role models, who'll share their experiences of working life. **Don't miss our early bird offer!** Discounted

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

tickets are still available, but you'll have to act quickly as they're going fast. **Can't join us for the whole day?** Don't worry, you can book your place now and access the individual presentations for up to 29 days after the event, so you can watch them whenever suits you best.

[Find out more and book your tickets here.](#)

Healthy Minds training and other online workshops – Now CPD accredited

We're delighted to announce that our Healthy Minds training is now CPD accredited, along with all the other online workshops delivered by our expert trainers.

We offer a variety of online training workshops providing you with the most up-to-date and relevant information so that you can help deaf children and young people achieve their full potential. Each workshop is interactive, informative and designed to build your specialist knowledge and help you to implement best practice approaches. We have options for full days, multiple afternoons or multiple evenings so you can choose a session that suits you.

- [Healthy Minds - *now CPD accredited*](#)
- [Raising a deaf child facilitator training - CPD accredited](#)
- [Deaf awareness for early years practitioners - CPD accredited](#)
- [Supporting deaf children in early years settings - CPD accredited](#)

Raising a Deaf Child – Parenting Course

We are offering free, online courses for parents / carers of a deaf child aged 0-13 to learn more about ways of raising a happy deaf child. An example of topics the courses will cover are;

- Better communication with your deaf child
- behaviours, feelings and needs of deaf children
- how to talk to your deaf child about feelings
- the impact of deafness on the family
- exploring the deaf child's identity
- tips on working with the professionals who support your child

We can support families who may not have access to a device, or data to get online. We are also able to offer language interpreters for those who do not use English as their first language. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Applications for our Family Sign Language online courses are open again!

Flexible course dates

We're thrilled to be announcing another round of our free Family Sign Language online courses. Our experienced tutors will teach you how to use British Sign Language in everyday family life with topics such as mealtimes, in the house and talking about feelings. Each course is made up of six private sessions, delivered via Zoom. Up to six family members can take part, meaning even grandparents are able to join remotely!

CHSWG Update Report

Term and Year: Autumn 2021 (2)

Places are limited, and we'll be prioritising applications from:

- Families with a deaf child aged 0 to 7
- Those who experience communication difficulties in the home
- Young children with language and communication concerns
- Families with no previous experience of learning sign language.
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Even if you don't have access to a laptop, tablet or good internet connection, you are welcome to apply. If you are offered a place on the course, we will contact you about how we can help you to get online.

Click [here](#) to find out more and **apply by 19 November**. This window may be closed early if we receive a high volume of applications.

How you can help

Did you know we offer a free will writing service to our members?

Everyone knows the importance of planning for the future. So, if you are ready to write your will, our partners at Guardian Angel can help you do it for free – either online or over the phone depending on where you live. And if there's a little left to spare, a gift in your will can provide the support deaf children need to enjoy a future full of opportunities. [Find out more](#).

Contact

Email us at localengagement@ndcs.org.uk