

MINUTES of DESF MEETING

14 May 2018 2pm

NDCS HQ London

	PRESENT Jill Bussien (JB) – ADEPT James Fitzgerald (JF)– CHESS and City Lit ASLI Martin McLean (MM) – NDCS Paul Simpson (PS) – BATOD (Chair)	ACTION
	APOLOGIES Rory McDonnell - Head of service, Greenwich Andy Owen - Senior CSW, Greenwich Anne-Marie Martin for Simon Thompson of Mary Hare	
<p>2</p> <p>2a</p> <p>2b</p> <p>2c</p> <p>2d</p> <p>2e</p> <p>2f</p> <p>2g</p> <p>2h</p> <p>2i</p>	<p>ACTIONS/MATTERS FROM LAST MEETING</p> <p>There is a revised version on DSA funded support. Those present at this and the last meeting, agreed the revised Minutes version</p> <p>JB had a response from NRCPD saying that in 18 months they hoped to be an independent regulator. A new director for development has been appointed, Marcus Hawthorn, starting 4 June. The contact advised that they are too busy to do a CSW register.</p> <p>PS welcomed the ANP (Association of Notetaking Professionals) representative. MEM advised that OCN Level 3 Notetaking courses continue to be offered around the UK. Contact: www.note-ablenotetakers.co.uk NH to forward information on the other qualification Surrey CC offers.</p> <p>PS: JCQ, representing awarding bodies, will have website information in due course indicating acceptance of the need to video the use of BSL in examinations starting August/September 2018; they accept use of the term ‘Communication Professionals’ instead of Sign Language Interpreter and use of video. However, there is lack of detail on the video process, now undertaken by Surrey CC.</p> <p>JB did the NatSIP-funded training for writing the electronic access arrangements form and requirements for it. The course can be accessed here: https://www.natsip.org.uk/exams-and-access/3504-new-online-resource-examination-access-course-for-sensory-impairments</p> <p>Phonics and post 16 Learners Research: PS emailed them but no response. PS to follow up</p> <p>Future Membership: 3 groups were invited but no replies received. Follow up.</p> <p>Survey: Data received this morning.</p> <p>Apologies: Add Kimberley’s and James Fitzgerald’s names to last meeting’s Minutes.</p>	<p>NH</p> <p>JB</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>JB and PS</p>
3a	<p>DSA-QAG ISSUES</p> <p>A meeting of agencies, communicational professionals and associated organisations was held at City Lit on 17 April; 3 present at this meeting, attended. Common Themes arose; there was a focus on the inflexibility in applying processes and the missed sessions policy. The ambiguity of the</p>	

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<p>3b</p> <p>3c</p>	<p>wording of the process required and its interpretations by auditors and users, with examples, were discussed. Often a query from a provider was answered verbally in such a way that did not agree with the written policy and the answers were never provided in written format. Providers have as a result been financially disadvantaged when taking SFE advice which in turn affected provision of communication.</p> <p>On missed sessions and trainees, auditors need further training; if an audit is passed but SFE don't pay invoices, or vice versa, there is a problem – a lack of synchronicity.</p> <p>The procedures are not only dysfunctional but unfairly applied in respect of sanctions as well as the terms and conditions for BSL interpreters and other communication professionals. Interpreters have better pay terms for cancellations periods and travel costs. When put to an auditor, he could not find any back-up policy. Procedural clarity is audited but there is no transparency and sanctions appear to be a one way process.</p> <p>SURVEY: An auditor advised that students are sent a DSA survey, randomly, annually, to evaluate support, but NH has yet to hear of a student who receives one. The NUS apparently is unaware of the survey. NH has not received a copy of the survey form and, despite requesting one, never received braille version.</p> <p>'WORKING TOWARDS' QUALIFICATION NH explained the unworkability of the framework for qualifications and application of the rules on 'working towards' a qualification. When the procedures are followed, DSA QAG and auditors do not accept their use despite their own acceptance of at 2 least precedents. NH however, has a 'work around'.</p> <p>CLARION MEETING (SSAG: Student Support Agency Group Meeting) 17/4/18 The meeting was set up by Clarion Interpreting. NH will be unable to attend the next meeting as she represents a government body but plans to mirror the concerns and expectations discussed which focussed on the inflexibility in applying processes and the missed sessions policy.</p> <p>Gregg Boon of the DfE was identified as a contact. JF recommended a meeting as CHES, DSFF, NatSIP all have similar issues.</p> <p>NH to invite Mr Boon to a meeting via email.</p> <p>ALL: ACTION - go through the DSA QAG main and survey document and annotate the points for discussion, then meet again to prioritise the points.</p> <p>ACTION embed up to date DSA QAG framework into the Minutes</p> <p>ACTION: MEM to email members the website links for the above action</p>	<p>NH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>MEM</p> <p>MEM</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>DESF SURVEY PS read out an email from Andy Owen discussing the survey. The aim of the survey is to learn how many CSWs there are and their qualifications. It was suggested that a document be published with the surveys of 2010, 2012 and</p>	

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	<p>2018 to see if there is progress. A new questionnaire could be based on the old but have up to date information covering topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what level BSL is held and what other qualifications do you have? - Other support roles; FE and HE could be included along with items on ToD trainees – is a ToD qualified? How are they paid: externally or in-house? What is the banding level? <p>Now, CSWs must be qualified; KC advised there are now 2 CSW qualifications at level 3 and NRCPD was approached to have a category for them. Adept wrote to NRCPD about this</p> <p>To maximise returns, FE responses would be useful. An FE forum could be used? – the AOC: Association of Colleges may have a members’ list for the survey. ADEPT members to be asked about member colleges. The DSA QAG register has a list of HE and University institutions</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 create questionnaire – JB offered to support AO; MM to ask him. 2 decide who to send it to 3 Survey Monkey to be used with a link; get it out by end July requesting returns by October; evaluate who returned forms; chase non-responders. <p>Outcomes: data could provide an overall picture of provision of specialist support, where FE is a main concern as HE outcomes are quite good. It could provide information to use as a benchmark for improving the situation, to target markets, enable registration possibilities (NRCPD’s CSW sector is too slow in development) but data can show trends rather than speculation and it would provide supportive data for future negotiations.</p>	JB/MM
5	MEMBERSHIP - Topic now defunct	
6 6a	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>KC spoke to Rafiq Chowdry of the DfE about the BSL GCSE after a recent Parliament event and DfE said that during this government there will be no new GCSEs. They will send a letter to those who approached them, to inform them of the situation. It will go to the Signature Board of Trustees soon. NDCS will continue to push it. Lindsey, Executive Director of Signature, is meeting Jo Campion at end May.</p> <p>The reasoning: because there have been so many reforms in GCSEs they want a period of stability; they also closed the doors to new technical awards in February as they carry same merit as GCSEs.</p>	JF
6b	<p>NH attended a Westminster forum conference. Lord Addington expressed interest in any DSA related issues and is on the SEND committee.</p> <p>ACTION: MM and NH to discuss what might be done.</p>	MM NH
6c	There is an ADEPT event in Preston and an NDCS event in July.	
6d	For OCN notetaking qualification mapping for acceptability to NRCPD, NRCPD advisers should talk to OCN tutors to map content for equivalence. There are expert standards advisers.	

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6e	There is a Level 3 certificate: Supporting Teaching and Learning for Deaf Learners - a TA qualification which had a pilot run. The title can be changed.	
7	NEXT MEETING 09 July 2018 ACTION: MM to find room at the NDCS.	MM