

Notes of a meeting of the DESF held on Friday 16th May 2014 at Action on Hearing Loss at 3pm

Present: Jill Bussien (secretary for this meeting), Andy Owen, Paul Simpson (chair for this meeting), Martin McLean, Ann Crocker-Smith,

1. Apologies received

Maria Bailey, Nicki Harris, Andrew Burgess

Not received

Ralph Hartley, Judith Hutchinson, Natalie Owen, Simon Thompson, Jane Barden

2. Notes of last meeting

All other notes were agreed as representative

3. Actions and matters arising

- K. Curry sent information
- DESF survey – deferred to on next agenda
- Signature: BSL GCSE continues to be developed. The format cannot be language solely, as a specking and listening element required.
- GCSE Questions: responding to questions in BSL - NDCS & Batod have produced a paper, which has gone to Ofqual. The Awarding Bodies are unhappy with regard to security. Ofqual are reviewing Section 96. There is already a system in Scotland.
- DSA handbook – on agenda

Action: PS	Send to AO
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4. I-Sign Project

- CSW development fund now closed. Some applications were turned away. 41 CSWs (£24,000) are being supported, in a wide range of settings.
- I Sign Project finishes in March 2015; there will be exit plans and plans for cooperating with other organisations.
- At present, evaluating the impact of the funding, DoE require measurable outcomes relating to children due to CSW support:
 - A condition of the grant, not a realistic condition, but will attempt to comply, the issue will be raised with DoE. An evaluation report for DoE with future recommendations will be written.
- Signature is setting up a focus group to examine the “blur” between TAs and CSWs. More clarity is required for the new CSW qualification for schools.
- New Signature qualification – a pilot began on 2nd may at UCLAN. There are a few vacancies.
- A new publication, “Access to BSL Learning” was sent to LAs and is filtering down. There is discussion around services being offered.
- A new publication, “Parents’ Guide to Learning BSL”

- Family Sign Language: The trainer training continues. There are grants available for local groups for setting up classes. The emphasis is now on sustainability e.g. resources.
- Local Offers: NDCS are looking for good examples e.g. Trafford (work in progress). For example EY and the qualifications of staff, Clubs, etc.

5. DESF survey

- Simon has data

Action: PS	To contact ST
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6. Non-Medical Helper Services Framework

7. Changes to DSA

- NMHSF has not been linked to DSA
- NMH manual launched March 2014
- There are 4 bands e.g. Band 4 – ToD, Band 3 – Electronic NT, Band 1 – Manual NT.
- They have now admitted that the costings used are three years out of date. The figures are still unclear: is VAT or London Weighting included. They do not want the costs to increase. They are developing new banding.
- In a Govt. statement DSA Bands 1 & 2 have been removed, as there can be reasonable adjustment by HE or technology. Therefore, Universities may use capture technology for all students.
- In addition, DB guides removed from Band 1.
- These statements depend on the severity of the student's needs.
- Lobbying by FSE and BIS may gain some improvements.
- Computers now to be provided by students, but if software is required by the student it may be provided, if over the normal remit for most computers
- No responses for comments by Batod and City Lit.
- NDCS has already written to David Willett, a meeting has been planned
- BSL/ SSE users are ok.
- Oral/ lipreading students cannot cope in lectures but can cope in daily life.
- There is an "aim to be vague".
- Will universities recognise the needs and have the resources? Will the services become generalised?
- Established services for HI or already developing may be ok, however students may be streamed out on application or by lack of services. Students taking gap years will be affected by the new regulations.
- Comes into force from 2015/16.

Action: AC-S	To draft a letter from DESF and circulate to all by end of May.
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8. Update on NRCPD CSW bid

- MB & AO took part in a conference call on 7th May
- Jim ? has spoken to NATSIP
- Looking for funding
- Considering CSWs in different contexts

- Signature want to work with the industry to unblock the situation, so going to consultation regarding role or role variations
- Suggestions requested to go to consultation
- They will study the results before moving forward
- Funding approved on 6th May
- Another conference call in one month to report on progress

Action: AO & MB	Notes to JB.
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9. Updates on Children and Families Act (Highlights)

- Royal Assent on 1st September
- 3 years & 2 terms for the process to change from Statement of SEN to EHCP, with CoP alongside it.
- Education, health, and care to work jointly.
- Local Authority to provide a Local Offer with the a child / parents at the centre, stimulated by Lamb Enquiry.
- A local directory with real information to be published.
- The assessment has to be co-ordinated for a joint plan of need.
- EHCP is from 0 - 25 years, it excludes HE students, but includes FE.
- It must reflect present needs and aspirations for the future.
- It is new that health has to provide.
- Personal budgets are being developed
- 16 -25 years in FE can request an assessment from LA and they have the right to appeal at tribunal in their own right.
- There is a stronger focus on preparation for Adult Services, so transition can improve.
- Academies and Free Schools as treated the same as maintained schools.
- Parents are more powerful throughout the process i.e. by expressing a preference for non-maintained schools. LA has to say why the placements not appropriate.
- Parents must consider mediation before tribunak and they need to show consideration for it.
- Local Offer to be considered annually for the CYP, so concerns and complaints can be expressed.

10. Future of DESF

- Discussion of DESF history
- A variety of bodies need to be invited
- What are the terms of references?

Action	As major item to be on next agenda
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11. Updates from the organisations

Signature	Re PS email Present course is L3 CSW for FE. Discussion of role of CSW
CHESS	NADP Conference, workshop entitled "Don't just throw an

	interpreter at it.” This was to highlight the other needs of Deaf learners.
NDCS	Research in FE provision by Manchester University to finish soon with intent to inform policies
ACSW/ NATED	June 2014 at the AGMs, it is hoped to ratify the closure of ACSW and the change of name of NATED to Adept. Adept will have a new managing committee and structure. ACSW’s monies will be kept separate and have a specific use, yet to be confirmed. Conference speakers are Brain Gale, Robin Ash, Wendy Daunt and Jerry Hanifin. There are also workshops and exhibitions.
BATOD/ NATSIP	Ofqual/ Exams Monitoring Returned to 1950/60s structure, will it have an impact on results? Terminal exams Spelling & punctuation now counts in history, geography, literature, RE
BATOD	CRIDE survey for provision of Deaf Children in UK Return is 99% in England – good data, on BATOD and NDCS websites 2015 will be 5 th survey, so longitudinal results will be available There is a hope to marry the ANTSIP benchmarking results with feasibility results and all the factors. Many ethical/ data protection issues to overcome.

12. Any other Business

- City Lit – One week summer school 16 -24 years – see website

13. Date & venue of next meeting:

Friday, 3rd October 2014, Action on Hearing Loss at 3 pm

Action: Book Room	PS to contact Emily
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