

Forth Valley CHSWG minutes

Forth Valley Children's Hearing Services Working Group		
Date:	Time: 10-12	FVSC
Type of meeting	Quarterly Children's Workgroup	
Chairperson	Amanda Walker	
Note taker	Catherine Cameron	
Attendees	Amanda Walker (HT and ED Aud at Windsor Park) Leza Munro (Audiologist) Melissa Gray (Audiologist) Marie Cafferky (NDCS Children and Families Support Officer) Catherine Cameron (QToD Stirling) Kieran Gemmel (QToD Clacks) Iona Smith (Speech and Language Therapist) Melissa Condie (FVSC) Rowan Ferguson (FVSC)	
Apologies	Alan Simpson (FVSC) Richard Vevers (FVSC) Sammy (Parent representative) Brogan Thompson (Cochlear Implant Team) Katie Clark (Speech and Language Therapy)	
Last minutes: There are no minutes from the previous meeting		
Topic		
Chairperson and members:		
Amanda Walker has been nominated and seconded as Chairperson for the group. Melissa Gray has been nominated and seconded as Vice Chairperson.		
We are updating the members and associate members contact details. Members to share their updated details with Amanda by Wednesday 1st April. Members are people who can attend each meeting. Associate members may not be able to make the meetings but are involved in supporting children and young people's hearing needs in Forth Valley.		
The group are keen to recruit parent members. Members will approach individual parents and the group will also be 'advertised' on the FVSC information screen.		

The group are also keen to capture the views of young people. Discussions will take place at the next meeting as to how best to do so.

Topic

CHSWG Terms of Reference:

We have an old copy of the CHSWG Terms of Reference. Please take a copy away. Everyone to read and send any comments/amendments to Amanda by 27th March.

Action Items	Person responsible	Deadline
Send comments to AW	Everyone	27 th March

Topic

Aims and Areas of Focus (on Padlet):

Prior to the meeting, the group all shared our “Wants and wishes from CHSWG”, “Barriers or Issues in achieving our wants”, and “Name three suggested areas of focus”. Together we discussed the comments. Everyone is encouraged to keep adding to the Padlet.

AW has created a FV CHSWG Padlet Summary and Action Plan March 2026 page. This highlights the gaps/issues and actions to take forward.

AW will share this Action Plan with group members.

Topic

HOSS Forum:

AW shared the importance of attending the HOSS Forum. They share important information to ToDs and can lead CHSWG on recent developments. Discussions at HOSS include BATOD, NDCS, University Courses to become a QToD and QTVI.

Stirling Council (Fiona MacCuish) and Falkirk Council (AW) attend.

Topic

BB93 Update and BATOD Revised Guidance:

This is the Buildings Bulletin 93. The consultation is asking if the new recommendations are suffice to meet the needs of deaf learners.

BATOD – Consulting are regards updated guidance for assessing deaf pupils with complex needs.

Topic

Specialist Deaf CAMHS:

Rachel O'Neill contacted Holly Greer who runs Deaf CAMHS in Northern Ireland. Rachel and Amanda are to meet with Holly to discuss how they established NI Deaf CAMHS.

At a recent Lothian CHSWG meeting, Deaf CAMHS from England came to share information on how Deaf CAMHS works in England – What they do and how English Deaf CAMHS can support children living near the Borders.

Amanda will feed back to the group at the next meeting.

Topic

Education Update:

Falkirk AW – The Toddler Group at Windsor Park has been relaunched and runs on a Wednesday afternoon, 1.30-2.30pm. It's for babies and toddlers. Children from Clacks and Stirling are welcome to attend, but please bring your TOD or TVI with you for your first session and where possible, thereafter.

Dates for next session will be shared with the group and for the display screen at FVSC.

Nicola Killeen, Children's and Young Person's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS) visited Windsor Park recently. The Commissioner have been working with Windsor Park on a number of initiatives.

The retired BSL Tutor at Windsor Park has yet to be replaced. Hopefully an advertisement will go out for the post soon as this is a vital resource for Windsor Park.

Stirling CC - Catherine has started the advanced Auditory Verbal UK course, after completing the foundation level course last year. She is finding it very relevant for her deaf babies and pre school children.

Ella will be returning from her Maternity Leave in August. Caroline McLellan (QToD) is covering Ella's role.

Catherine has met with Caroline Nisbet at FVSC to discuss the BSL classes which will be starting in August, in Stirling and what other classes may support families in Stirling to make connections with others.

Clacks KG – Business as usual!

Topic

SLT update:

The Speech and Language Team have been very busy supporting children across Forth Valley. We have three new deaf babies in the Forth Valley area. We appreciate joint home visits with ToDs.

Topic

FVSS update:

- There are BSL classes running in Falkirk, Stirling and Alloa.
- Melissa is going out to schools and Youth Groups. She has worked with over 500 children / young people since starting.
- They are looking at current Youth Groups and have started a Dungeons and Dragons group for young adults once a month. They may set up a second group.
- They have run a pizza and gaming event playing accessible games.
- Falkirk Deaf Open Club – lots of events are on regularly.

Topic

NDCS Update:

- Community Connector has been appointed for FV area, Gemma Laird. She will start on 30th March but will be in training for a few weeks before starting in the Community.
- NDCS & Family Fund have partnered to deliver a new UK wide funding. Flyer previously sent out, details on Website. National Deaf Children's Society Family Fund | National Deaf Children's Society

Topic

Windsor Park Professionals Visit:

Amanda is going to run a professionals visit to Windsor Park. Visitors will get a tour of the school and be able to find out what WP has to offer d/Deaf pupils and their families. This will be a session prior to our next CHSWG at 9.15am.

Those who plan to attend should let Amanda know by Friday 29th May.

Topic

UNHS/Audiology

No updates from UNHS

Audiology remains very short staffed. With paediatric patients continually being prioritised - this will only affect the adult audiology service.

We are continuing to see newborn babies well within 4 weeks of referral and hearing aid fittings by 3-4 months of age. New referrals for older paediatric patients are sitting at around 6 weeks and we are managing to see monitored and aided children on time.

As part of the ongoing Government Audiology review, all non-accredited audiology departments in Scotland underwent an IQIPS gap analysis, which identified lack of support for audiology departments. We will be unable to put the department forward for accreditation without receiving additional staff / resources."

AOCB	
Retirees	n/a
Next Meetings	Wednesday 3 rd June at Windsor Park