

# Getting involved with your local CHSWG

## What's a CHSWG?

Children's Hearing Services Working Groups (CHSWGs) ensure that the services for deaf children and their families in your area work together to provide the best support possible. They are based in health authority areas in England.

*"A strong CHSWG makes a huge difference to the support available for deaf children"*

## Who sits on CHSWGs?

Parents of deaf children, as well as any other service users, and professionals who provide services for deaf children, such as teachers of the deaf, audiologists, and speech and language therapists. NDCS also tries to attend many CHSWG meetings.

*"I found them very approachable"*

## Why should I get involved?

This is a chance to have a direct impact on your local services and how they work for you, your children and family, and the children and families of your local group. Have your say and shape the services deaf children in your area receive.

## What skills or experience do I need?

You don't need any experience to attend; all you need to be able to do is give your opinion about the services for deaf children in your area. Ideally these will be based on your own experiences as well as the experiences of other families in your group.

*"We are treated like we have a valued opinion"*

## How much time do I need to give?

A few hours every term is normal. Different CHSWGs meet on different days at different times; some of them do meet during the day so if you work full-time, you may not be able to attend. You can find out when and where your local CHSWG meets by asking your Teacher of the Deaf, the NDCS Regional Director for your area or by contacting the helpline.

*"I feel it is one way we can make a relevant difference"*

## What support is available?

We realise that if you haven't been along to this sort of thing before, it can be a little daunting. NDCS can support you before you attend for the first time, so if you would like to know a little bit more about your local CHSWG and what happens, contact the NDCS Regional Director for your area. Their details can be found by contacting the helpline or at [http://www.ndcs.org.uk/about\\_us/trustees\\_senior\\_management/contact\\_rds.html](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/about_us/trustees_senior_management/contact_rds.html)

*"It is positive that we are consulted on any changes"*

## Please share your experiences

If you are attending your local CHSWG, do please keep us updated on your experiences and how we can continue to support you and your local group.