

Welcome to
the **Southwark
Hearing Support
Service (SHSS)**
2020 Autumn Two
Newsletter.



WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) 2020 Autumn Two Newsletter. In this issue we talk about the Under 5's virtual group we are running and how the Children's Hearing Services Working Group works. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families seasons greetings and we will be back in the new year.

UNDER 5'S GROUP SESSIONS ARE BACK

We have recommenced our group sessions for our children who are under 5 years old. They are being hosted virtually using the digital platform, Zoom.

The sessions involve singing, a story and sometimes sharing some useful information. If you have a question or an issue you want to raise this is a good time as you will get the experience of other families as well as the HSS Team.

Don't worry if your child won't sit and watch the screen for the whole session. Very young children have short attention spans and like to be moving about. Keep a favoured toy handy to distract them. If they are being very noisy but not joining in with the singing, you can always 'mute' your mike (🔇) and carry on listening to the session.

We have already had two sessions. These took place last week and those who joined enjoyed the sessions. It would be lovely to see more of you there.

If you would like to join in for future sessions you will need to download Zoom. This is free to download and can be used on Smart Phones, laptops and PCs. It is easy to use and is similar to other video apps that you may be more familiar with (FaceTime, WhatsApp, Skype etc).

For the meeting, I shall send out details which may include a URL (website link) that you click on or a set of two numbers, which you fill in when you open Zoom on your device. Meeting ID first and then passcode. You then need to click onto 'Join Meeting'

I shall let you into the meeting and we will all be able to see each other over the video. You may be familiar with these multi-person videos but if it is your first time, give it a try! It's not too difficult and is fun to join in the session.

We are planning to host these virtual groups on a monthly basis with a 10 am session and an 11:30 session.

See a list of dates below;

December 17th 2020	February 25th 2021	April 22nd 2021	June 17th 2021
January 21st 2021	March 25th 2021	May 20th 2021	July 15th 2021

We hope you enjoy these sessions and would be grateful for any feedback. When circumstances allow we are hoping to return to holding sessions in person. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible via the video.

Best wishes

Karen



CHILDREN'S HEARING SERVICES WORKING GROUP (CHSWG)

As a Teacher of the Deaf, I am privileged to work with a diverse group of children, young people and their families. I bring to the job professional knowledge each family teaches me about how complex it is to raise a deaf child.

As a profession Teachers of the Deaf work with lots of other professionals in education, health and charity sectors. From my own experience each of these professionals have the success and well-being of deaf children and young people as their primary ambition. The different services ensure that they provide the best service they can but opportunity and time constraints sometimes make collaboration between services challenging especially when considering the daily pressures of work.

The Children's Hearing Services Working Group, CHSWG, aims at bringing these different bodies together to work on defining a focus and establish improvements to services to better meet the needs of local families and their children.

Southwark and Lambeth Hearing Support teams come together at CHSWG with Audiology and Speech and Language Therapy teams and the National Deaf Children's Society, NDCS, help support and guide our work. Nationally CHSWGs have a broader attendance and as the group grows it is hoped that different invested and interested agencies will again become involved.

The vital component of a CHSWG is parents. By providing your views on services and feedback you can affect change. Professionals may lack the overall view of services that a parent has and as parents you have an independent voice that can challenge and encourage change. There are numerous testaments to how effective parent involvement can be at CHSWG in the document, 'What Works: Children's Hearing Services Working Groups – A guide for commissioners and health and local authority providers who support children and young people with hearing loss' (Oct 2019). This is available online.

The parent representatives who already attend CHSWG do a great job at being a critical friend of the services but they would welcome more of you to join. Being a confident public speaker is not a requirement, giving your views honestly is. Meetings are being held virtually and while we are thinking of increasing the number of meetings to six a year, they are planned to be shorter. If you do not feel that you are ready yet to commit to joining the meetings then why not read the agendas and minutes which explain what was being discussed at the meeting. These can be found in the Hearing Support page of the Southwark Local Offer.

Providing your voice can bring about real change.

A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

NAME	JOB TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
ARTHUR CEFAl	Acting Team Lead Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07540 152 935	Arthur.Cefai@southwark.gov.uk
DANUTA PIWKO	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07710 921 741	Danuta.Piwko@southwark.gov.uk
LOTTIE TAYLOR	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07725 623 079	Lottie.Taylor@southwark.gov.uk
KAREN ROWLEY	SHSA, Early Years Professional	07725 623 076	Karen.Rowley@southwark.gov.uk
EMMA FORD	Qualified Teacher of the Deaf	07395 372558	Emma.Ford@southwark.gov.uk

**SOUTHWARK HEARING
SUPPORT SERVICE (SHSS)**

**AUTUMN TWO
NEWSLETTER
2020**

*“The Children's
Hearing Services
Working Group,
CHSWG, **aims at
bringing these
different bodies
together to work
on defining a focus
and establish
improvements to
services to **better
meet the needs of
local families and
their children.**”***



**KEEP
SOUTHWARK
SAFE**