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Systemic Change and the Role of the Voluntary Sector


Susan Daniels
Chief Executive
National Deaf Children's Society

2  What is the Voluntary Sector ?

3  The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

- The UK's largest national charity supporting all deaf children & their families

- Supports all families regardless of deafness, amplification, communication methodology and educational placement

4  The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

- 28,000 enquiries per year
- 13,000 household members
- 120 parent groups around the UK
- £11.5 million turnover
- 150 paid staff

5  The National Deaf Children's Society

Vision

The NDCS vision is of a future without barriers for every deaf child.

6  We work to achieve this by

- Offering clear, balanced information and support to families
- Advocating for deaf children, young people and their families
- Providing opportunities for young deaf people to develop social skills, confidence and independence

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- Working with professionals and policy makers to ensure high quality services are available for all
- Campaigning and lobbying on issues affecting the lives of deaf children, young people and their families

8  Values

The NDCS believes that

- If appropriate support is given and positive attitudes are fostered the challenge of deafness can be a rewarding experience for deaf children, young people and their families
- Families should receive clear and balanced information and support as near to their home as possible

9 Values (continued)

- Deaf children need to develop fluent language skills in order to understand and influence the world around them, by whichever communication approach is most appropriate for them
- Deaf children, young people and their families should have access to high quality services that offer diversity and choice and meet the needs of the individual child

10 Services

- A Freephone Helpline giving clear, balanced information and support on many issues relating to childhood deafness with specialist advice on audiology and technology
- A network of family officers offering advice on education and welfare benefits for deaf children and support with appeals and tribunals

11 Services

- Events for families and young deaf people including arts, sports, outdoor activities and parenting days
- A membership magazine, TALK, and free membership to parents and carers of deaf children
- Free publications and on-line discussion group for parents on our website www.ndcs.org.uk

12 Services

- A purpose-built Listening Bus travelling widely to UK schools and audiology clinics attended by deaf children
- An equipment loan scheme and grants to help parents on low incomes to buy essential equipment

13 Services

- An International wing – International Deaf Children’s Society, including an India in Country programme, a Small Grants Programme and major on-line global information forum at www.idcs.info

14 NDCS Campaigning Role


- New Born Hearing Screening
- Informed Choice
- Involvement of parents/carers in the strategic development of services


15 NDCS Campaigning Role

- Quality service provision
- Teacher of the Deaf training and supply

- Continuum of educational provision
- 16 ☐ New Born Hearing Screening (NBHS)
 - Clearly identified need backed up by academic research & NDCS casework over extended time period
- Early identification both well justified and cost effective
- 17 ☐ New Born Hearing Screening (NBHS)
 - Pilot implementation announced by Health Minister at NDCS Conference in June 2000
 - Implementation started in Jan 2002
 - Full roll out to be completed by October 2005
- 18 ☐ New Born Hearing Screening (NBHS)
 - Provision of information through statutory health & education services to all families from screen, confirmation through to intervention
 - Key member of NBHS implementation team and national screening committee
- 19 ☐ Informed Choice
 - Development of fluent language skills by whichever communication process is most appropriate
 - Provision of information, communication, amplification, education placement options is a postcode lottery.
 - Currently developing guidelines for practitioners and information for families
- 20 ☐ Informed Choice
 - Working in partnership with the University of Manchester and 3 areas in the UK
 - Parents and professionals involved in the research and development
 - Produce materials for parents and professionals will support changes in professional policy and practice
- 21 ☐ Teacher of the Deaf Supply & Quality Issues
 - Funding
 - Quality
 - Age Profile
 - Mobility

- Supply of Teachers of the Deaf
- 22 ☐ **Teacher of the Deaf Supply & Quality**
 - Working in partnership with services, universities and others
 - Focusing on recruitment and training of teachers of the deaf (including funding issues)
- 23 ☐ **Teacher of the Deaf Supply & Quality**
 - Currently examining a range of different training models
 - Working with Blind and Deaf-Blind field
 - Findings & recommendations to presented to DfES
- 24 ☐ **NDCS Campaigning**
Continuum of Educational Provision
 - Changing nature and context of special school provision for deaf children
 - Re-examination of the role of schools for the deaf in the light of changes to their pupil populations
- 25 ☐ **Continuum of Educational Provision**
 - Increasing need & expectation to provide outreach services to support mainstream schools
 - NDCS initiative brings together schools for the deaf in the maintained, non-maintained & independent sector
 - Considering the role of special schools, including the current challenges
- 26 ☐ **NDCS Campaigning**
Quality Service Provision
Deaf Friendly Schools Pledge
- 27 ☐ **Quality Service Provision Deaf Friendly Schools Pledge**
- 28 ☐ **NDCS Campaigning**
Quality Service Provision
Deaf Friendly Schools Pledge
 - Initial target 2000 schools, over 2100 have signed up so far
 - Local Authorities in Nottinghamshire, North Lincolnshire, East Lothian and Lambeth have signed up all the schools in their area

29  **NDCS Campaigning**
Quality Service Provision
Diamond Clinics

30  **NDCS Campaigning**
Quality Service Provision
Diamond Clinics

- 5 point pledges for paediatric audiology clinics
- Clinics receive £60 of Early Learning Centre vouchers and a support pack
- 192 clinics signed up and over £1100 vouchers issues

31  **NDCS Campaigning**

Involvement of families in strategic development of services

32  **Conclusion**

The role of NDCS in systemic change

- Information & casework function
- Robust evidence base
- Involvement of families throughout campaigns
- Clear well defined solutions
- Understanding political context

33  **Conclusion**

Families at the heart of all campaigning and lobbying are a powerful lever for change.

There is nothing else more effective