**Agenda Minutes 20th November 2024**

**1.30pm – 5.30pm \*Please note the change of time\***

Farnham House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ

Postal point: SFAR 114

* Each find a journal from BJVI to disseminate for discussion on the day – group discussion. Pre-reading encouraged
* App’s and which are useful or not useful, including for environment – group discussion
* Pen-friend and other kit equipment to share a revision on how to use include non-jab cane if practitioners have access to it – group activity
* EYS tummy time idea and how to model these practices to parents -  a group activity
* CPD de-brief expectation for next year
* Conference booking dates – March (first Wednesday of the month)
* Questionnaire feedback and answers
* Exec meeting update

Minutes: 20th November

Regional Executives: Paula Bird and Laura Hussey

Time of meeting: 1.30pm Farnham House, Stevenage Room 0.17.

Attendees: Laura Hussey, Paula Bird, Jo Marshall, Lisa Underhill, Georgina Rose, Lucy Middleton, Nicole Rowe, Rachel Britcher

Apologies: Amanda Martin – Northamptonshire

Cath Bayley   
 Ann Potter

Exec meeting catch – up

CPD logbooks are due January for moderation to Paula. The executive board have announced that the CPD logbooks will be moderated externally by a QTVI (post to be advertised). The reasoning behind the QTVI being hired is to have a n non-biased input. CPD will be discussed at the next HabVIUK conference in March. In 2026 the CPD logbooks will be subjected to pass or fail. Failure to meet your CPD will result in being taken off the HabVIUK register.

Book reviews: Buy, Borrow or Bin on books or products – provide a review on Amazon via HabVIUK newsletter and receive £20 per review.

Paula is currently reading to review Polyvagal theory in the classroom: a guide to empower educators and support dysregulated children and young people.

Knowledge Exchange: will be covering “when is the most appropriate time to introduce a long cane”. Date is the 15th January, invites to be sent out – keep an eye out on your inbox for the invite. Check you spam/junk just in case.

Level 1 Food hygiene course is being offered by HabVIUK at £9 per head, please check the recent newsletter for details.

CFVI: Jess Hayton, Sue Mort, and David Turton are working to aligning the Habilitation Standards to the CFVI to make it a mandatory document. This is a working progress.

Apprenticeship plans – The HabVIUK board are re-looking at the apprenticeship courses starting at level 6. Identified that a Trail-=Blazer is needed to sort this idea. Essentially, no new news on this front.

Conference workshops:

Keynote speaker – role of the ECLO.

5 Different Workshops

* Sensory play and tactile needs
* Tactile discrimination
* ILS Carousel
* Road safety refresher and wheelchair mobility
* Apps Tommy

Registration for new students:

Newly qualified Habilitation Specialist from last year to send over a letter from the manager to support registration to HabVIUK.

UEB Braille up to Lesson 5 to support registration.

Journal discussions:

Further reading of the HabVIUK Constitution has been sent to regional members and journals being discussed. Including “Influence of sports camps and vision on perceived motor competence in children and adolescents who are visually impaired” Ali Brian, Sally Taunton, Pamela Haibach-Beach and Lauren J. Lieberman. JVI&B 2018.

Freya Ashman (Cambridge student habilitation specialist) discussed the paper “Being siblings of children with vision impairment” Battistin, T., Bottan, I., Zanardo, V et al., BJVI 2024, Vol. 42 (1) 193-209.

* The affects and evidence on the impact on siblings of “parentisation” (young carers) and how the siblings show how their caring is put before their own needs as they develop into adults.

General discussion of how QHS’s have interacted with siblings in our practice. Discussed the roles of non-English speaking families with a CYP who would translate for the family and impact that must have on the child.

The impact of the “negative” sibling and the difficulty of parents discipling the CYPVI for sibling fighting and the experiences the CYPVI has when they go out on Habilitation outings and the sighted sibling is missing out, and the outcome would be to the sighted child hurting the CYPVI for having an experience without them.

Paula suggested that these children would benefit from play therapists to support their emotional regulation.

If a CYPVI has an EHCP it can be added to the EHCP under the Social care and comment that the sibling requires play therapy to provide a therapeutic outlet for the sibling to come to terms with their siblings VI.

If the siblings have access to Pupil Premium the aim of that funding for the children to work together.

Family needs to set boundaries in the home and manage expectations of the behaviour for all children in the household.

Apps to share:

* Georgina Rose: Using google maps a lot more outdoor travel and orientation for bus travels.
* Jo Marshall: SeeingAI, using that shopping and finding issues with continued signal for use in shops at the back of a bigger store. Concluded that using with a student that it can not be fully relied on
* Navi-lens not fully there yet.
* Jo shared that her daughter has highlighted that these apps are problematic as if you have very little vision you don’t know where you are pointing you camera
* Eyera: has a monthly subscription and shares the minutes with a friend to share the cost.
* Be my eyes have paired up with Meta Ray-Ban’s. [Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses | Meta Store](https://www.meta.com/gb/smart-glasses/)
* RSBC: Techtalk Alex Mann
* **Action for Laura Hussey: to book Alex Mann to talk to use and show us the tech in the next regional meeting.**
* Hableone: [Buy Hable One](https://www.iamhable.com/en-om?srsltid=AfmBOoq31Si2oonHN60eS1E8jmjznA5i9x7EZDLSUWMiujC1HBRlcvKa)
* [RNIB Tech Talk](https://audioboom.com/channels/4813993-rnib-tech-talk)
* ABC Braille: [ABC Braille](https://www.abcbraille.com/)
* [Talking Kitchen Scale MK V](https://cobolt.co.uk/products/talking-kitchen-scale-mk-v)
* Equipment ideas have been shared via new whatsapp group.

WhatsApp group: name East Region HabVIUK group. If you want to be added for regional meeting updates and notifications of important practice information, please give permission and your chosen phone number to Laura Hussey (group admin) to be added to the group.

**Tummy time advice:**

* Babies will cry and understand that the baby is only communicating with us and not being traumatising.
* Start go all the back to the beginning.
* Initiate knees and kneeling. Put child on the shins of parent and parent to do leg raises.
* Blanket swing (Sherborne) cocooned in. Reassure parent that we are doing it for 10 seconds and stop.
* Leaning on the bottom step with a toy
* Small peanut seconds on and off very quickly.
* Arm swings and put on knees (pony ride)
* Model it on the parent to empower the parent to do this.
* Jo shared information sheets. Will be sent to members after the meeting from www.wonderbaby.org / [Developing Multisensory Skills in Blind Babies | WonderBaby.org](https://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/multisensory-skills-blind-babies)

**AOB:**

* Next regional meeting –   
  Venue: **Priory House, Austin Street, Kings Lynn, PE30 1EB Ground Floor.**  
  Date: **21st May 2025**   
  Time: **10am – 3pm**
* Read the two journals above to discuss at the next regional meeting.
* Georgina to arrange: JOLT – Journey of a Lifetime, presenter. [Jolt Trust – Expanding horizons, enriching young lives.](https://www.jolttrust.org.uk/)

How are other regions coping and how are maintaining consistent practice and professional standing across the UK? - question for Board.

* Stargardts Connect conference is being held at Fenchurch Place, Saturday 23rd November: [Home - Stargardt's Connected](https://stargardtsconnected.org.uk/)