

## President's Blog -10th February 2020

So, Blog Number 5...

Wow, February has arrived and the 2nd week announced its arrival with Storm Ciara. I hope you and yours were ok over the stormy weekend. My daughter's wishes - to have trees blowdown blocking the lane to school - regrettably for her and thankfully for me failed!

The BAA team has been very busy since my last blog with some great things going on. Our Immediate Past President, Sue Falkingham, supported Anna Hollingdale, our South East Regional Rep, to deliver a CPD event in Southampton. The day included Ida Institute person-centred care and some intriguing role play. The attendees thoroughly enjoyed the day and took back to their departments an updated awareness of BAA and the IDA tools to start enhancing their practice. More regional events are in the planning stage so keep looking out for news on these. As members don't forget to contact your reps if there is particular content you would like for your next meeting.

The BAA exec committee has been busy planning another IDA paediatric event for later in the year for members, along with finalising the Heads of Service meeting. The Heads of Service Day will be on 26th March in Birmingham. This is a key event that will help shape the direction that BAA adopts; influencing our business plan and our actions within the audiology landscape. I hope the event will be well attended as without you we won't know what you are thinking or need. We plan to cover audiology as part of the healthcare science world, workforce strategies and the College of Audiology discussion. I am very pleased that Angela Douglas – deputy Chief Scientific Officer will be present to share the CSO strategy for NHS England. I want to assure all that we will cover what all this means wherever you live in the UK.

Following on from my visit to see Adrian Carragher in Scotland in January, I spent the morning with John Day in Wrexham last week. We discussed the Welsh audiology scene and what BAA can do to support Wales.

We are also keen to fill our vacancies for regional representation in Scotland and Northern Ireland. We welcome any interested members to take up these opportunities.

Behind the scenes we are also still working on the new website... but launch is getting closer. The Education & Accreditation committee have been working on the HTS and the Standards of proficiency guidance.

On 5th Feb I went to my first Hearing Alliance meeting. This well-attended event gave me a good opportunity to meet many of the members who make up the Alliance. The agenda was content rich, including the position on safety guidelines on PSAPS, the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CCG consultation and the Action Plan on Hearing Loss. I also shared that BAA were seeking further opinion from past presidents and Heads of Services before deciding on our next steps on the possible College of Audiology.

Finally, I had a telephone conference call on the 6th February with the Centre for Health Ageing who are moving their focus to vision and hearing and how to support the age range 50-70yrs to enjoy an additional 5 years disability-free life expectancy. BAA will stay close to this programme and ensure they work from an informed position. As I reflect on this, I realise I am in this target group... eek, how did that happen?

Please remember to sign up for the Heads of Service meeting and if, as a Head of Service, you are unable to attend yourself, we would welcome an informed deputy – this would be a great personal development opportunity for them

Remember you can email me directly: [president@baaudiology.org](mailto:president@baaudiology.org)