

BAA President Blog – 7th September 2020

September already! This year is flying by, as we are all very busy meeting all the new challenges thrown at us this year. For all departments there is now a need to increase our activity, which brings the next challenge for us all. I am sure we are all at different stages of this depending on how we can manage the social distancing.

We have our next Heads of Service webinar on the 16th September. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone, to see where we are and how we are doing. We have, at least, had some good news about the clear face masks. I know some of you have them already, whilst others have struggled to get hold of them. I am looking forward to the day they arrive in my department!

I participated in the Ida Institute Patient Centred Hearing Network webinar. This was a 10pm meeting for UK participants as Ida brought people together from across the world. Last year's meeting focused on ideas for patient centred care in audiology. With the pandemic, some projects went on hold.

It is now a good time now to revisit these and look at the next steps. I will provide an overview of these at the Heads of Service Webinar on the 16th September. The Ida team are keen for everyone to get involved. More information is being released soon.

Your Board is continuing to work on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. We had a very productive first meeting with an EDI consultant. We are aware that we do not have any information on the ethnicity and diversity of our members. This is a vital starting point for our organisation. Our consultant made it clear that we must have this membership information. If we do not know this basic data, we have no way of knowing if we are diverse or inclusive. We can make an educated guess that our BAA Board is not representative of our membership. But we need the data.

We need to ask some pertinent questions of our membership. Look out for the e-mail and for updates to your member profiles.

We know that we can only request this information and you do not have to answer the questions. But I hope that you can help us in this important work. We must seek to ensure we are diverse and inclusive as a Board and membership body.

We are gearing up towards the new look, online 'conference week'. I hope you are enjoying the webinars that the conference team are putting on for you. These will culminate in a week of webinars in November. We will be holding the AGM in that week and I hope you join us for it. Seven places are available on the Board from November. The new Board Directors announcement takes place during the AGM.

The annual awards are an important part of Conference. We have decided it is important that we still present these. Please nominate your colleagues. Celebrate their amazing work and achievements you have all been part of this past year.

Kath Lewis