

BAA President Blog – 21st September 2020

Last week we held the BAA heads of service webinar and had quite a packed agenda.

We love that the clear face masks have started arriving in departments. This is an important development for us all. Now the Department of Health and Social Care gathers the feedback necessary on them. For those who have managed to get some, we use them as needed with the caveat that they are not used in high risk areas. ([see update and provide feedback here](#)).

I am excited about the forthcoming projects of the Person-Centred Hearing Network (PCHN). We will have more information soon, from the Ida Institute, on how you can get involved in the projects. In the meantime, they are looking for some paediatric audiologists to get in touch [here](#).

We are progressing with the next steps of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work. The very basic information we need is the demographics of our members. Please look out for any requests to update your membership profile information. This is one of the important first steps to ensuring we are representative and inclusive. More information will be coming out soon.

Thank you to those members who have put themselves forward to be a BAA Board Directors. There's still time if you are considering this [next step](#). Applications close on the 5th October and we will then go to election.

There have been lots of entries for this year's abstract submissions. Thank you to all who have sent these in, even though we will not see them in person this year. I always enjoy reading about the research projects and service developments every year. Amazing work goes which shows how keenly our profession looks to future possibilities.

During the most recent Heads of Service webinar, we ran some polls. We asked which departments had returned to routine appointments. 97% said they had. Don't forget we are here to support you, as our NHS services return to routine work. We know that our members in the private sector also face the same issues and have commenced routine work. We hope that a further shutdown does not occur nationwide. With the Joint Guidance in place, I do hope we can keep our services running.

We aim to run the Heads of service online meetings quarterly, with the next one coming in January 2021. There are plenty of educative BAA webinars coming up in October and November – keep an eye on the [events page](#).

Take care

Kath Lewis