

BAA President Blog – 7th March 2022

It has been a busy month, with committees and board directors focusing on the important areas of our strategy. Workforce is high on our agenda, and we will be coming back to all our members on this. BAA carried out a scoping exercise on the state of the workforce in 2019, and it now appears that things are not as we would like them to be for our future, and the future of Audiology in the NHS.

So what can we do to ensure what Audiology will look like in the future?

We need honest conversations and alternative strategies to grow our workforce.

I am coming towards the end of my career, and I want to know what sort of service I will be using as a patient in the future. So, can I ask you all – what should we be providing and how can we make this happen? Don't forget that many in the private sector will want to see hearing aids out of the current services and provided on the high street, and that all assessments can be done in diagnostic hubs in community settings by hearing care assistants supported by qualified HAD/Audiology. Is this the way forward - we want to know? What about people who need more diagnostic tests and support for non-routine hearing difficulties, not forgetting people with tinnitus, processing disorders and all the balance problems?

We are having these discussions and want your input too. I know I ask each time, but please send your views - what should BAA be campaigning for? High on the list are education and post grad training, promoting audiology in the NHS to grow the workforce, standards, standards of proficiency review – are we missing anything?

I was pleased to be asked to participate in the early professionals' webinar series last week. We had some great speakers talking about their career pathways and things we had learned along the way. We all love this profession no matter where we have ended up, and it is a great profession whether you are in the NHS, private sector, manufacturing, or research in higher education institutes. Thanks to Saira Hussain for putting these together and Victoria Adshead for ensuring they went out smoothly. Catch them again on the member web pages.

Take care

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Kath Lewis