

In this week's Horizon we bring you updates, opportunities, news, and information from across the field of audiology.

If you have any information that you would like to be included in a future edition of Horizon, please contact admin@baaudiology.org. The deadline for submissions is the 2nd February, 2017.

BAA Board & Committee News:

- **President's Blog** - Michelle Booth BAA President continues her blog on the BAA website. You can follow her blog here: <http://www.baaudiology.org/about/president/#.WE14bYXXLIV>
- **The BAA board meet for the first time in 2017 today** (Monday, 23rd January) in Birmingham where our new CEO will be presenting to the board for the first time. Board minutes can be accessed via the members area of the BAA website.
- **REMINDER! The BAA Service Quality Committee are looking for a BAA member to join their team!** The committee provides advice on service quality issues and produces written guidance for Audiologists. You will need to have five years experience in Audiology and an interest in researching and writing about Audiology services. They are especially keen to hear from BAA members in Scotland, but welcome interest from anyone keen to get involved. Please contact the chair Hannah Jeffrey via admin@baaudiology.org for more information.
- **The Service Quality Committee have extended their membership consultation on the final draft of the Guidance on Shared Care of Children, Young People and Adults using Audiology Services.** The document is available for comment on the SQC webpages: <http://www.baaudiology.org/index.php?cID=225> Please use the Consultation Feedback form provided to **return your comments by Monday 30th January 2017** to BAA@Fitwise.co.uk.
- **REMINDER! The BAA Heads of Service (England) meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 15th March 2017 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.** If you are a Head of Service and have not been contacted regarding the meeting please contact the BAA at: admin@baaudiology.org to update your contact details.
- **The BAA North East Regional Study Day is due to take place on Friday, 17th March at Durham County Cricket Club.** The theme of this study day is 'Advancing Audiology: Non-Routine Adult Services' and is open to all Audiology professionals, you do not need to be a member of the BAA. This event is free for members and only £50 for non-members to attend. The Programme is now confirmed and can be viewed online at: www.baaudiology.org/events/calendar/baa-north-east-regional-study-day-2017
- **WORKING WELL WITH TRUSTS AND COMMISSIONERS** Working well with your Trust and Commissioners is critical in the current climate, and if issues arise, tackling them can feel like a daunting and isolating process. Over the next few Horizons updates, Dr Rachel McCarthy, Head of Audiology at the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust, and the Research and Policy team at Action on Hearing Loss, will be exploring things you can do to ensure Trusts and Commissioners understand the value of your service and how you can be prepared for any potential challenges.

These will mainly be based on a presentation Rachel gave at the BAA Conference in 2016 of 10 top tips for tackling commissioning challenges, which will shortly become available online along with a summary of the programme of blogs they are planning. Read the first blog, on the Commissioning

Framework for adult hearing loss services, here:

<http://www.baaudiology.org/index.php?cid=218#.WIEUWvmlTIU>

We want to know what else can be done to support members to work with Trusts and Commissioners – if you have ideas or examples of ways BAA can support you, or ways you have streamlined processes or introduced innovative ways of working, or if you are currently facing challenges within your service and would like support, please email admin@baaudiology.org and Gemma Twitchen, Senior Audiologist at Action on Hearing Loss (gemma.twitchen@hearingloss.org.uk), who can help you.

Other News:

- **Accessible Information Standard Review – Have Your Say** - The [Accessible Information Standard](#) sets out requirements for NHS and adult social care providers to identify, record, flag, share and meet the information and communication needs of people with a disability, impairment or sensory loss. NHS England is reviewing the Standard to assess impact and ensure it is 'fit for purpose' and is inviting views:

- Survey for health and care professionals and organisations – [online](#) and [Word document](#)
- [Survey for patients, service users, carers and parents](#) (also available as a [Word document](#), in [audio](#), braille, [British Sign Language video](#), and easy read)
- Survey for support, supplier and representative organisations – [online](#) and [Word document](#).

Please take the time to **share your experiences and views before 10th March 2017**. Please send queries and requests for alternative formats to england.nhs.participation@nhs.net or patients / members of the public can call 0300 311 22 33.

- **The 2017 Advancing Healthcare Award nominations are now closed however there is a closing date extension for the Scottish Government's award for Driving Improvement, Delivering Results (healthcare scientists) to 5pm on Tuesday, 24th January.** This award is for all healthcare scientists in Scotland who have demonstrated their expertise to drive improvement and maximise the contribution of healthcare science. The ambition is to deliver sustainable and coherent teams and services that promote the overall NHS Scotland's ambitions of improving quality, safety and patient experiences of care. This delivery leads to increasing the health of the population, ensuring equity and best value of resources. To enter this category [click here](#) and if you have any queries please contact Rachael Fisher on 020 8334 4500 or rachael@chamberdunn.co.uk
- **Tinnitus Awareness Week is taking place between the 6th and 12th February, 2017** and further details can be found at this link: <https://www.tinnitus.org.uk/taw2017>. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch with the BTA via emily@tinnitus.org.uk or call 0114 2509933
- **Volunteer for Sense. Each year**, Sense supports up to 300 people who are deafblind or have complex needs, of all ages, on our unique programme of holidays, short breaks and leisure clubs. Providing opportunities for holiday makers to have fun, try new things and meet new people. Our holidays also give families a break from caring, and enable them to focus on their own health and wellbeing. Our enthusiastic volunteers use their great interpersonal skills, willingness to learn, team work, flexibility, stamina, patience, humour and care to bring our Sense Holidays and short breaks programmes to life. Over the week you will get to know a group of amazing people. You may help someone experience something completely new. You will discover ways to communicate and get an insight into different perspectives on the world. We have short breaks in February, Easter, May and October which are typically 5 days and week-long (7 day) holidays that take place in July and August throughout England and Wales. Accommodation ranges from outdoor activity centres, to cottages, farms and barns, to villas, and even barges! Step up to the challenge today, we are confident that you will gain as much as you give. For more information on our week long summer holidays visit the [website](#) or email holidays@sense.org.uk
- **Action on Hearing Loss recently published research on the lack of understanding of employers of the support available employees with hearing loss. More here:** <https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/news-and-events/all-regions/press-releases/more-needs-to-be-done-to-help-employers-become-hearing-loss-confident.aspx>
- **The closing date for the recruitment of members of the 'Hearing loss guideline committee' for NICE is rapidly approaching with applications closing on Friday, 29th January.** More details here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/get-involved/join-a-committee/topic-expert-hearing-loss->

gc?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=hearinglossrecruit

Job Adverts:

- **NHS GRAMPPIAN - Audiology Department, Woolmanhill Hospital, Aberdeen Audiologist.** Band 6 £26,565 - £35,577 per annum. Full-time 37.5 hours per week. For any queries regarding the job, **please contact** Gordon McHardy, Head of Audiology Services on 01224 555479 or for an informal chat contact Hannah Greenwood, Audiologist on 01224 555588 . E-Mail gordonmchardy@nhs.net or hannah.greenwood2@nhs.net . **To apply please visit www.nhsgrampian.org/jobs and search for Ref No PR15864. Closing date 8 February 2017.**
- **Interacoustics - International Clinical Trainer - The Interacoustics Academy.** Please send your CV and covering letter explaining why you are the ideal candidate for the role to Leigh Martin lema@interacoustics.com. **Application Deadline: 1st March 2017 Interview Date: 28th March 2017.** For further details please visit: <http://www.baaudiology.org/careers/recruitment/#.WIH3cWdviM8>
- **Hampshire Hospitals NHS - Audiologist. Band 5. Part-time, 30 hours per week, fixed-term contract Winchester, Hampshire. Please apply using the following link:** <http://jobs.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/job/v625225> **Closing date: 31 January 2017.**
- **To advertise a job in future editions of Horizon please contact advertising@baaudiology.org**

Upcoming Courses / Events:

- **BSA accreditation of short courses** – do you or your department provide courses on otoscopy, impression taking, aural care, basic audiometry (air conduction without masking) or industrial audiometry? Did you know the BSA can accredit your course? For more information **please click here:** <http://www.thebsa.org.uk/bsa-accredited-courses/>
- **Auditory Processing Disorder Workshop: 15th-16th May 2017.** For audiology, speech therapy and other professionals involved in APD. Confirmed Speakers: Dr James Hall, Dr Harvey Dillon. Topics of discussion based on assessment and management of APD. The course will feature high profile international speakers, plenty of hands-on workshops and clinical video demonstrations, and ongoing opportunity for mentorship and peer support with option of free post event online workshops. **For more information,** please contact www.audiologyplanet.com
- **The Paediatric Audiology Course: 23rd-25th May 2017.** For paediatric audiologists and other professionals involved in children's hearing care. Confirmed Speakers: Dr Susan Scollie (Canada), Dr Josephine Marriage, Gwen Carr and Dr Jay Jindal. Topics include theory and practice of diagnostic otoacoustic emission testing, speech audiometry, visual reinforcement audiometry and setting up VRA peer-review, verification of paediatric hearing aids, and translating clinical excellence into high quality child and family centred care. The courses will feature high profile international speakers, plenty of hands-on workshops and clinical video demonstrations, and ongoing opportunity for mentorship and peer support with option of free post event online workshops. For more information, please contact www.audiologyplanet.com
- **Register now for the BSA Accredited Course in Otoscopy and Impression Taking place 28th & 29th March or 5th & 6th September COST £300.** As a leading earmould manufacturer Starkey are committed to supporting their customers to produce a perfect earmould fit every time. As part of this commitment to your departments we understand that in many departments Assistant Audiologists also undertake impression taking often without any formal training or certification. Starkey are pleased to offer an opportunity for Assistants and Associate Practitioners working in audiology settings to have a recognised certificate of training in impression taking for adult patients. Experienced trainers from the Starkey Training team will ensure that all delegates are safe and competent to take impressions on adults and children over 5 years of age. In a fun and supportive environment skills will be developed and practice undertaken to produce competent impression takers who can then add that skill to their job role within their departments. If you already take impressions but have no way of proving your skills and competence this course is also relevant to you to gain the BSA Accredited Certificate. **For more**

details or to register for this course please contact Sarah Weir at sarah_weir@starkey.co.uk As part of our commitment to our customers we also offer on going training for qualified audiologists in earmoulds and impression taking, **please contact** your Area Manager or sales@starkey.co.uk to arrange a department ear impression and ear mould refresher training session.

Social Media:

The Facebook Group has discussed:

- Return to practice courses
- Dermatomyositis
- The AoHL consultation on potential cuts to dewax services

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