

## BAA Press Release

### **BAA Position Statement on The Future of NHS Adult Hearing Loss Management**

BAA believe that audiology services must be free at the point of access for everyone who needs it, and where possible this is best provided by existing NHS services who have the infrastructure, governance and joined up pathways to do this most safely and effectively. We oppose voucher schemes and anything which risks fragmenting and ultimately privatising parts of the pathway by stealth.

The Position Summary from the BAA document - The Future of NHS Adult Hearing Loss Management – states:

- The British Academy of Audiology (BAA) believes Adult hearing care, including the provision of hearing aids and rehabilitation, should be available to all those who would benefit, provided free at the point of delivery.
- NHS Adult Audiology services should provide safe and effective hearing care for adults with hearing concerns which represents value for money for the NHS/taxpayer and is not for profit.
- Services should offer evidence-based assessment and management of hearing, following national guidelines.
- BAA believes the NHS is best placed to offer evidence-based assessment and management, scientific leadership, integrated pathways and provide hearing healthcare across the lifespan.
- BAA recognises the important role the Private Sector plays in hearing care provision in the UK through offering a broader choice of hearing aid styles and features than typically available via the NHS, as well as offering alternative services such as custom hearing protection that are not ordinarily NHS funded.

The full position statement can be accessed here: [BAA Position Statement on The Future of NHS Adult Hearing Loss Management](#)

BAA is pragmatic about capacity and the limits to what a struggling system can offer. BAA asks that the four nation's governments fund the NHS Audiology service appropriately to allow improved investment in infrastructure, staffing, training and education, to ensure the long-term sustainability of NHS Audiology provision.

Whilst there is currently a variation in the quality of services in the NHS, BAA still believes that the NHS is the best place to provide the high quality, holistic care patients are entitled to. BAA calls on all NHS services to think how they can deliver their services differently (if necessary) to meet the current and future challenges we all face.

Dr Samantha Lear, BAA President, said: "It has been a challenging few years for UK Audiology. Whilst waiting lists in some areas are a concern, many services are adapting and working differently to

overcome the multiple issues they are facing. BAA calls on government to support and resource NHS Audiology departments to ensure they can continue to provide high quality hearing care free at the point of delivery for all who need it.”

ENDS

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**Notes to editor:**

- The British Academy of Audiology (BAA) is the largest association of professionals in hearing and balance in the UK. Our membership extends internationally and provides services in both the public and private sector.
  - The BAA aims to help its members to develop in their professional skills, provide a benchmark for quality and professional standards and promote audiology as an autonomous profession.
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