

BAA President Blog – 27th October 2025

Continuing the theme of these blogs over the past few weeks, this one is also about CPD and training. As part of the Paediatric Hearing Services Improvement Programme 100 audiologists across England have been given funding to access M level modules and today the news has gone out that they all will now qualify for a funded BAA Higher Training Scheme (HTS) place. This is a great investment in training.

Part of me does wonder whether those 100 individuals feel as happy about it as I do. It can be quite daunting to take up studying and training again, whilst doing the day job and continuing with life in general. You may have just got your head around studying an academic module and completing the associated assignments then BAM here's more to do, and if you are already skirting around the edges of your comfort zone, this may shove you right outside it – the HTS comes with practical exams.

How can we make it feel more manageable? If you are about to embark on a new HTS module, I would recommend sitting down right at the beginning with your supervisor and agreeing how this will work for you. You have up to 3 years to complete the module, whilst that may feel too long for some, others will find that makes it fit into their life more easily. Get an agreement on how much time out of your usual clinical commitments you will be able to dedicate to the training to fit in the necessary supervised sessions. Also agree on what circumstances could occur that would change that (protect yourself from being pulled out of training to cover sickness, unless it is an emergency for example).

One of the benefits of this bulk funding across England is that several people in your region will also be starting the training – why not form a support group? Share learning, share tutorials...share your frustrations. It can really help being part of a group who know what you are going through. This would also be a top tip for supervisors as well, especially if this is the first time you are supervising someone on the scheme.

Recently, I have also started a new course. If I don't get through my allotted hours per week (and I frequently don't) I feel guilty. However, once I get into it, I am thoroughly enjoying learning about something new. What is helping is although it is mainly online, I am doing it at the same time as someone I work with, so we discuss the tricky bits. It also has regular online tutorials, which offer practical skills but also peer support from a wide range of other audiologists, and the tutor is approachable, encouraging and also hilarious. All these things keep me motivated, interested and takes away the guilt if I'm not quite hitting the weekly targets.

So, if you too are starting a new course, training or the HTS well done – starting is the biggest hurdle – and we are all in it together. If here at the BAA we can support you we will, the wealth of resources on the website is a good starting point for your learning. We are looking at how we can support supervisors more as well – if you have any ideas, want to share what has worked for you, please do get in touch.

With best wishes,

Claire Benton
BAA President

As always, you can contact me or any of our board directors here: admin@baaudiology.org

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