

BAA President Blog – 11th May 2026

Are you a list person or a mind-mapper or a more free spirited, go with the flow type? I am most definitely a list type. Mind maps to me seem like visual noise and feel overwhelming and my memory no longer supports the go with the flow option. Sometimes I simply have to give myself half an hour to organise my life into a list to feel better, especially when there are competing priorities or an overload of information. I am trying to get into the habit of it being the first thing I do on a Monday morning so I can plan my week. I really do need to see it in real life. So, it is a hand-written affair, stuck above my desk (for full disclosure other lists are available, written elsewhere if I need to plan some of the items in more detail). If by the end of Friday some things aren't crossed off, I don't beat myself up about it they just get bumped into the next week – or if no longer required they are discreetly retired!

As work with the Paediatric Hearing Services Improvement programme in England continues, this does feel like an area where there is so much information coming out, new offers of training and new directives, that I feel like we all need a list to help navigate it. This is something Keiran Joseph (BAA Treasurer) and I plan to do; to try and help us all understand what fits where and who should do what.

It is so positive that we have moved into a space where there is both funding and training on offer but working out where it all fits is challenging. I am also aware that across regions in England and the Home Countries what is on offer varies – so we may come out to you all and ask what is available and perhaps have a page on the BAA website, so all information for this is in one place. Watch this space.

Over the last two weeks Keiran and I have attended NHSE workshops run by our two National Speciality Advisors. The aim was to investigate how we can innovate pathways in paediatric audiology. A by-product of these discussions was highlighting the fact that Audiologists overall do not get time in their week to be able to properly address quality, CPD, and service innovation. Whilst we are measuring how well NHS services are doing only with the DM01 targets/waiting list times etc, managers within the hospitals are only focussed on pushing patients through the system, making departments essentially into audiology sausage factories. This makes it hard for services to advocate for time out of clinic for audiologists.

A current work in progress for Board Director Michelle Foster is standardised job descriptions and job plans (national job plans are also coming, so these will help fill the gap until they are published). These will soon be sent out for consultation to all members. Michelle has made sure that non-clinical time features in the job plans as we feel little can progress with service improvement, quality assurance and indeed mandatory registration (and therefore CPD) until all audiologists have protected time out of clinic.

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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