

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS FEDERATION

INFORMATION SHEET

The Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) provides collective leadership and representation on common issues that impact on its member professions. Its purpose is to exercise influence in the policy debate to promote narrative change in respect of developments affecting more than one of the member professions of Allied Health Professions.

The twelve AHPF member organisations are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council.

Aims and Objectives

The AHPF seeks to:

- Provide leadership support to member professions as they seek to develop their role in influencing health policy and practice guidance
- Shape policy and thinking through consultation and constructive dialogue with key decision makers.
- Influence and change government policy (affecting the professions themselves or the clients/ carers they serve, and related / local policy)
- Be recognised as a strong credible voice on common issues and an essential partner for the delivery of government objectives
- Act as a testing ground for ideas and developments within health and social care within public and independent sectors
- Promote the contribution of the professions and the professional bodies to health and social care (as per the AHPF Influencing Plan)
- Promote the activities of the Federation with member professions

Member Organisations

The British Association of Music Therapy (BAMT): The British Association for Music Therapy is the professional body for music therapy in the UK, providing both practitioners and non-practitioners with information, professional support, and training opportunities. It is also a charity committed to promoting and raising awareness of music therapy, and providing information to the general public.

The British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT): The British Association of Art Therapists is the professional organisation for art therapists in the UK. It works to promote art therapy and provides professional support and advice to its members. The BAAT represents art therapy within national organisations and has a growing international profile.

The British Association of Dramatherapists (BADth): The British Association of Dramatherapists is the professional body for Dramatherapists in the United Kingdom. Dramatherapy has as its main focus the intentional use of healing aspects of drama and theatre as the therapeutic process. It is a method of working and playing that uses action methods to facilitate creativity, imagination, learning, insight and growth.

The British Dietetic Association (BDA): The British Dietetic Association is the only body in the UK representing the whole of the dietetic workforce; practitioners, researchers, educators, support workers and students. Registered dietitians are qualified health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat diet and nutrition problems at an individual and wider public health level.

British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO): The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists was established to encourage high standards of prosthetic and orthotic practice. Prosthetists are autonomous registered practitioners who provide gait analysis and engineering solutions to patients with limb loss. Orthotists are autonomous registered practitioners who provide gait analysis and engineering solutions to patients with problems of the neuro, muscular and skeletal systems.

British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS): The British and Irish Orthoptic Society is the professional body for orthoptists. Orthoptic clinical practice encompasses both diagnosis and treatment and is wide ranging. Orthoptists help premature infants with retinopathy of prematurity, children with reduced vision due to squint, adults and children with eye movement defects due to diabetes, hypertension, endocrine dysfunction, cancer, trauma and stroke.

British Association/ Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT): The British Association / Royal College of Occupational Therapists is the professional body for occupational therapists and OT staff in the United Kingdom. Occupational therapy provides practical support to enable people to facilitate recovery and overcome any barriers that prevent them from doing the activities (occupations) that matter to them. This helps to increase people's independence and satisfaction in all aspects of life. Occupational therapists work with adults and children of all ages with a wide range of conditions; most commonly those who have difficulties due to a mental health illness, physical or learning disabilities.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP): The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy is the professional body in the United Kingdom. Physiotherapy uses physical approaches to promote, maintain and restore physical, psychological and social well-being, working through partnership and negotiation with individuals to optimise their functional ability and potential. They address problems of impairment, activity and participation and manage recovering, stable and deteriorating conditions through advice, treatment, rehabilitation, health promotion and supporting behavioural change.

The College of Paramedics (COP): The College of Paramedics is the recognised professional body for paramedics and the ambulance profession in the UK. Paramedics are the senior ambulance service healthcare professionals at an accident or a medical emergency. Often working by themselves, paramedics are responsible for assessing the patient's condition and then giving essential treatment. They use high-tech equipment such as defibrillators, spinal and traction splints and intravenous drips, as well as administering oxygen and drugs.

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT): The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists is the professional body for speech and language therapists in the UK; providing leadership and setting professional standards. Speech and language therapists (SLTs) in the UK work with children and adults to help them overcome or adapt to a vast array of disorders of speech, language, communication and swallowing. Whether in acute hospital and community settings, mainstream and special schools, or increasingly in the secure estate, SLTs make a huge difference to individuals and their families.

Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR): The Society of Radiographers is the only body in the UK representing the whole of the radiographic workforce. Diagnostic radiographers employ a range of techniques to produce high quality images to diagnose an injury or disease. They are responsible for providing safe and accurate imaging examinations and increasingly also the resultant report. Therapeutic radiographers play a vital role in the treatment of cancer. They are also responsible as the only health professionals qualified to plan and deliver radiotherapy.

The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists (SCP): The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists (SCP) is the Professional Body for registered podiatrists. Podiatrists provide essential assessment, evaluation and foot care for a wide range of patients with a variety of conditions both long term and acute. Many of these fall into high risk categories such as patients with diabetes, cerebral palsy, peripheral arterial disease and peripheral nerve damage where podiatric care is of vital importance. They work in both the community and acute settings and while many are employees of the NHS many podiatrists now provide healthcare services in the private sector.