



RCSLT webinar: Giving Voice to deaf children and young people

Tuesday 4th May 2021
1pm



Chair

Derek Munn

**Director of policy and
public affairs, RCSLT**



Housekeeping

- RCSLT staff are on hand to help with any technical queries, you can get in touch with them via the chat button
- You can send in questions to our speakers today by using the Q&A button
- This event is being recorded and will be made available on the RCSLT website along with the presentation slides
- For this webinar we are joined by a BSL interpreter
- We would be very grateful if you would fill out the evaluation form that will pop up in a new window once the webinar window closes

Presenters



Emma Fraser

Teacher of the deaf,
National Deaf Children's
Society



Ursula McCormick

Deputy manager,
Cheshire and Merseyside
hearing impairment
network



Alison Moore

Manager, Cheshire and
Merseyside hearing
impairment network



Martine Monksfield

President, British
Association of Teachers of
the Deaf

Aims and objectives

By attending this webinar, delegates will:

- Hear more about the role of SLTs in supporting children who are deaf, their families and carers
- Hear more about the support available from National Deaf Children's Society
- Hear more about the support available from British Association of Teachers of the Deaf



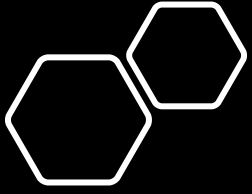
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Cheshire & Merseyside Hearing Impairment Network

RCSLT Deaf Awareness Webinar:
Giving Voice to deaf children and Young People
4th May 2021

Alder Hey Children's **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

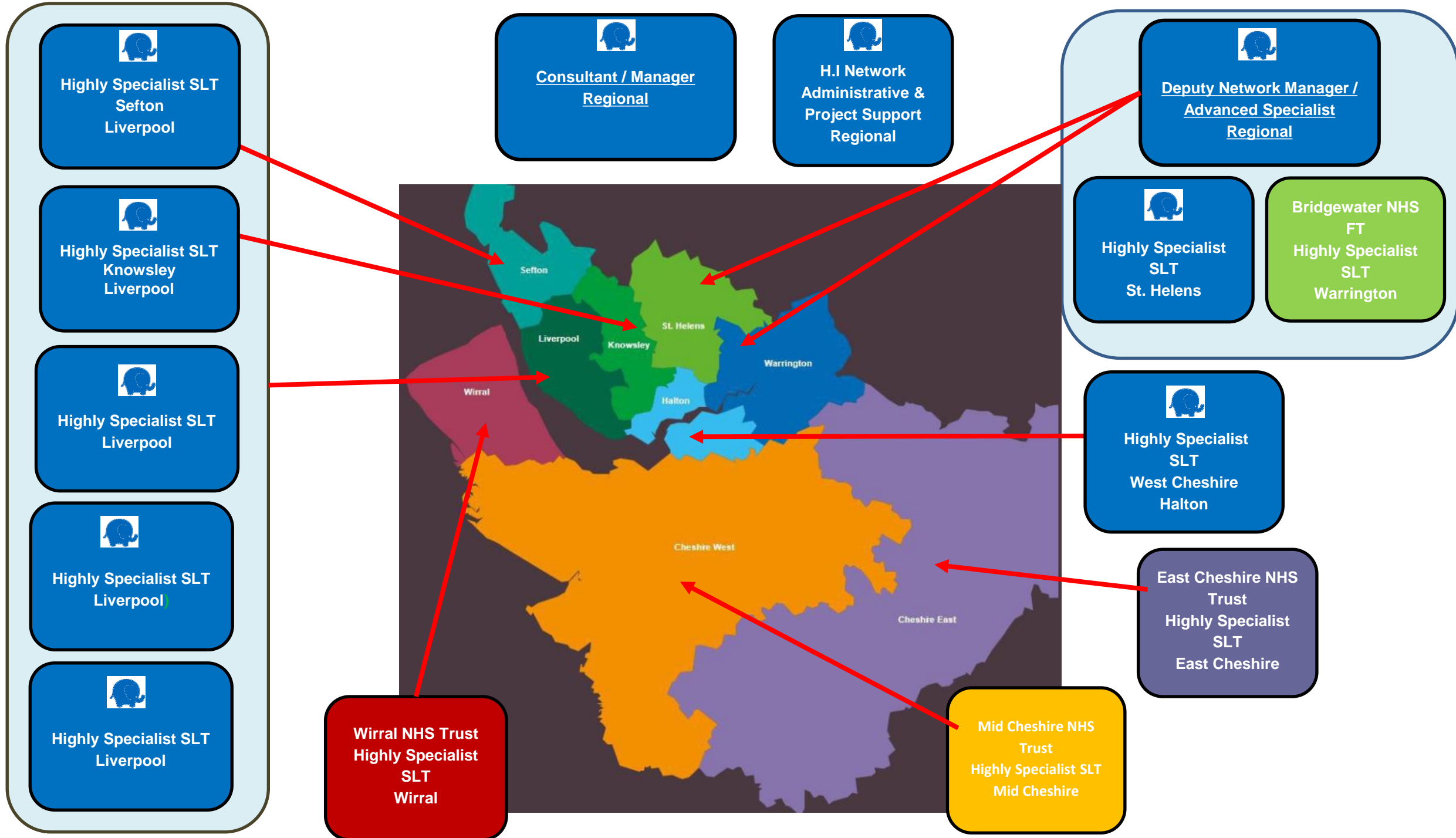


Agenda

- The Network
- Our client group
- Our Key Partners
- Maximising communication skills
- Levels of Intervention
- Thank you & questions

The Cheshire & Merseyside Permanent Hearing Impairment Network.

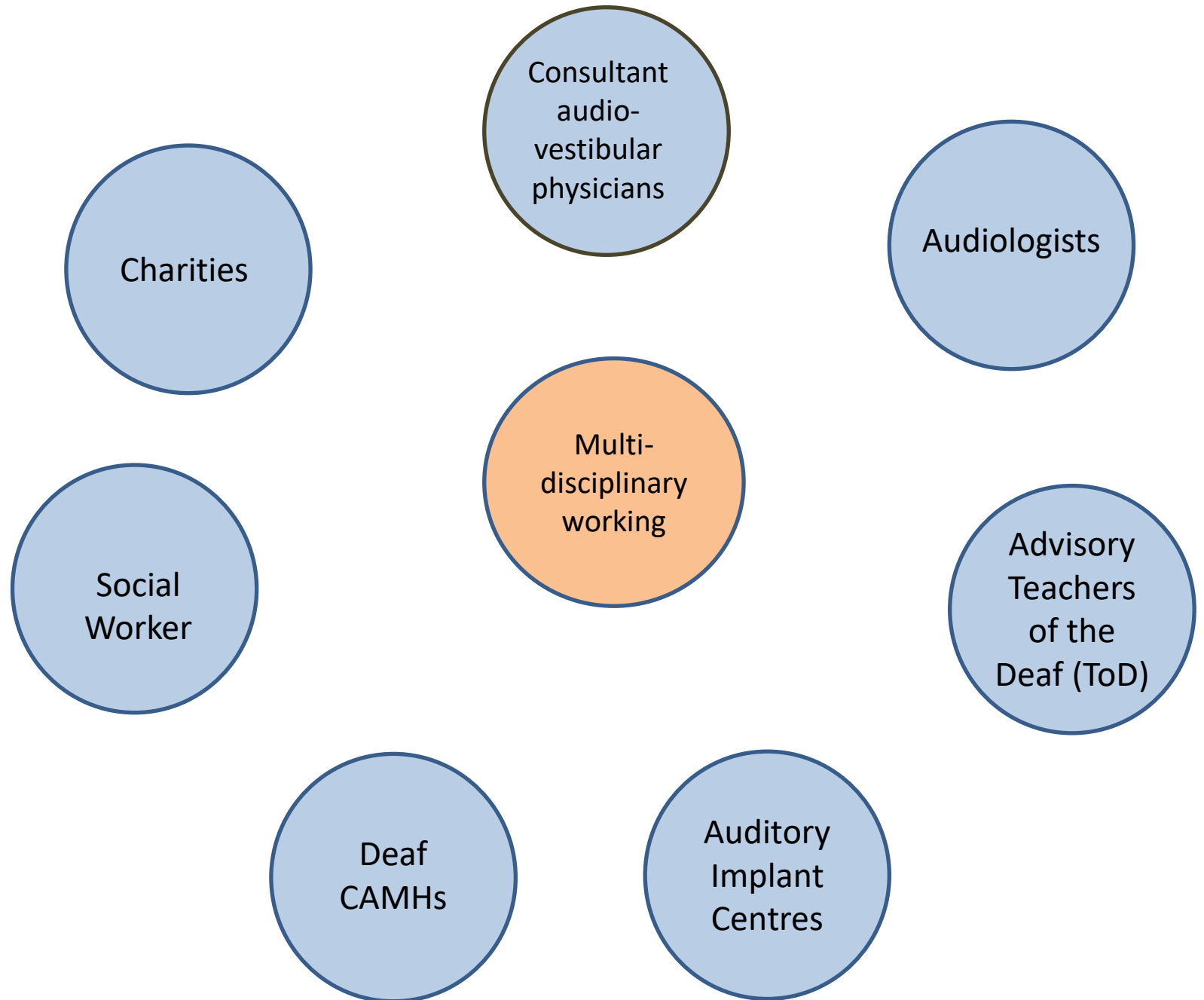
- ▶ The Network was established in 2003 to provide Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapy provision & equality of service for clients with a severe/profound sensori-neural hearing loss across Cheshire and Merseyside.
- ▶ The Network is hosted by Alder Hey Children's Foundation Trust.
- ▶ Network SLTs work flexibly across borders of the trusts as needed to meet changing needs.
- ▶ Deafness is classified as a low incidence high need condition – RCSLT 2018
- ▶ RCSLT Guidance on Deafness, Recommendations for Commissioning Highly Specialist SLT Services for children and young people who are deaf (2017) co produced by HI Network & NDCS



Our Client Group...

- Children/YP and adults with a diagnosis of severe-profound bilateral sensori-neural hearing loss
- Hearing loss is the primary need/ barrier
- Referral is usually from Audiology or Teachers of the Deaf
- 'Open' referral system
- We accept referrals from diagnosis of hearing loss.
- Children outside this criteria can be considered on a case-by-case basis

Our Key Partners.....



Our Role....

- To maximise each person's communication skills
- To enable each person to communicate effectively with hearing people
- To work in partnership with families to achieve positive communication outcomes
- To provide early intervention to support long-term outcomes for education and employment
- To contribute to improvements in children /YP / adults' mental health

Levels of Intervention....

Level 1:

Assessment, advice, discharge / signposting to other services

Level 2:

Assessment, advice, training for implementation of care plan by family or support workers at home or in setting

Level 3:

Assessment, advice, direct intervention with speech and language therapist to implement agreed targets

Contact details...

- **Alison Moore - Consultant SLT Manager HI Network**

Alison.moore3@alderhey.nhs.uk

- **Ursula McCormick - Deputy Manager HI Network**

Ursula.mccormick@alderhey.nhs.uk

Twitter

@SLTHInetwork

Emma Fraser

**Teacher of the deaf,
National Deaf Children's
Society**





Supporting the families of deaf children

We believe that families are the most important influence on deaf children and we are here to help families give the best possible support to their child every step of the way.

Services to families

www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services

- Information and resources
- Local support groups
- Peer to peer support programme
- Online and face to face events
- Family involvement



Our Helpline

Call

- Freephone 0808 800 8880

Email

- helpline@ndcs.org.uk

Live chat

- www.ndcs.org.uk

BSL Video Relay

- Support with a range of issues

Website



Information and resources



Success from the start

A developmental resource for families of deaf children aged 0-3

For families



www.ndcs.org.uk →

Face coverings and deafness

Our tips for communicating with deaf children and young people when face masks and coverings are being worn in public places.



Keep it clear
If you choose to wear a mask, make one with a clear panel if you can, so your mouth is visible.



Write it down
If speech isn't working, write it down or use a text message.



Find a quiet place
This will make it easier to hear, especially if technology is used to support hearing.



Be patient
Be flexible, creative and most of all patient in how you communicate with deaf children.



Use an app
There are mobile apps that can translate speech into text – why not try one?



National
Deaf Children's
Society

The National Deaf Children's Society is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 2616222 and in Scotland no. SC040779. 80222

[www.facebook.com/NDCS.UK/videos/
3087775494640238/](https://www.facebook.com/NDCS.UK/videos/3087775494640238/)

COVID-19 (coronavirus): support for deaf children

With the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we want to reassure you that we are working hard to provide as much support as we can to deaf children and their families. We want to make sure that deaf children aren't facing further barriers as schools close and that their families have access to information and resources to support their child.

Information for parents, carers and families

Coronavirus has changed lots of things in terms of support for deaf children. Our blogs provide more information on these changes and how they might impact on your child.

We're regularly updating these blogs in light of any changes to government advice so please do check back for the latest updates.

- [Information about coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - including information in BSL](#)
- [Schools and other education settings](#)
- [Support for home learning](#)
- [Moving on from school or college](#)
- [Exams](#)
- [Education, Health and Care plans and Statements of SEN](#)
- [Audiology services and hearing care at home](#)
- [Face masks and communication](#)
- [Disability benefits](#)
- [How to support your child and keep them safe online](#)

Our blog for families

So what does connecting mean to families?

“This was my first session and I loved it. I had my baby in lockdown and hadn’t realised how alone I had felt as a mum of a deaf baby. Just seeing and talking to other parents with deaf children was amazing. I’m not alone, I’m part of a welcoming community.”

We are the Connecting Families network

We support families to connect with one another, in ways which are meaningful, and at a time in their lives which is right for them.

1 Deaf Children's Societies

Formal status, associated with the National Deaf Children's Society, independent charity

2 Parent and Family Groups

Play groups, coffee mornings, WhatsApp/Facebook groups

3 Online Community

NDCS Facebook, online community, LDCS Facebook pages



"We gain so much from being part of a local group. Not only is it great for my daughter, but it's a wonderful support for us as parents too."

Meet families with deaf children near you



Joining a local group is a great way to meet other families with deaf children. Covering all age groups and levels of hearing loss, they provide support to parents and carers. Your child can also make lots of new friends.

The value of parent to parent support

Share    

Parent-to-parent support

Get support and advice from a parent who has been through a similar experience

If you've recently found out your baby or child has hearing loss, you might like to chat with another parent who has been through a similar experience.

We can connect you with another parent from the Bristol area who is happy to share their experiences and answer any questions you might have. All of the parents have a child with some level of hearing loss from mild to profound. You can speak to them once or on a regular basis – it's entirely up to you.

If you'd like to get in touch with another parent, please register online and one of them will be in contact shortly.

I'd like to be contacted by another parent

Need help with completing the form?

If you need help with completing our form, please contact [our Helpline](#).

What other parents have said

"When I found out that my baby needed hearing aids, speaking to another parent was invaluable. They shared so many useful tips."

"Whatever I was feeling as a mum, it was great to know that they had been there before too."

"It was so reassuring to chat to someone understood what we were going through, and to hear how their child is doing now."



Are you the parent of a child with hearing loss?

Would you like to be put in touch with a parent who has been through a similar experience to you?

We have parent volunteers who would love to meet you.



Parent led

Voices of parents

Needs of parents

Right from the start

The Family Programme



Baby & toddler
coffee mornings

Expert parent
programme

Family sign

Parents as
partners

Advice and
information

Bright Start Work

Exploratory Play?



'Outdoor play is about potential – the potential of spaces to engage children's imagination, curiosity and creativity and foster their health and well-being' – Froebel Trust

Language and
communication

Play and
interaction

Attachment and
well-being

We are still campaigning with families too



Take a stand for deaf children today by joining a network of over 9,000 passionate campaigners. **Click the button now.**



Fill out our latest campaigning e-actions on clear face masks:
ndcs.org.uk/coronavirus

Share your story with policymakers by getting in touch with the campaigns team: campaigns@ndcs.org.uk

Emma.Fraser@ndcs.org.uk

Which resources do you think would be most useful for professionals and the families of deaf children?

Martine Monksfield

**President, British
Association of Teachers
of the Deaf**





BATOD

British Association for Teachers of the Deaf

Martine Monksfield: BATOD President

Tuesday 4th May 1-2pm

Overview of BATOD



- A professional organisation that supports its members – not a campaign or union group. Click here for the [BATOD website](#)
- Aims: To promote the education of all deaf children, young persons and adults, to advance the status of Qualified Teachers of the Deaf and to ensure and enhance the high quality of mandatory training of Teachers of the Deaf and their continuing professional development.
- Membership profile: mostly QToD and ToD in training but increasing numbers of CSWs, support staff, audiology technicians, SLTs, audiologists. Many UK-based but increasing number of overseas members and special free membership to ToD peers in the Global South* (* through recommendation by UK based BATOD member)
- Members make use of the e-forum for advice, guidance, feedback and support across the UK
- Members receive the BATOD magazine 5 times a year, and the Deafness and Education International journal 4 times a year
- Active on social media: Twitter and Instagram handles are @BATOD_UK and we are also on [Facebook](#)
- Close links with d/Deaf teachers group, another support group for deaf teachers (ToDs and non-ToDs). Twitter @dDeafToD and Instagram @deaftod. Private group on Facebook only for d/Deaf teachers.



Support BATOD can provide to SLTs



- ToD expertise, knowledge and skills on language development can overlap with SLT expertise, knowledge and skills with some differences;
- Language Deprivation
- Communication modality – understanding of differences between BSL and Makaton
- Deaf norms and cultures SLTs sometimes not aware of – Deaf QToDs input valuable
- QToD supporting family outside of SLT sessions continuing listening/spoken skills

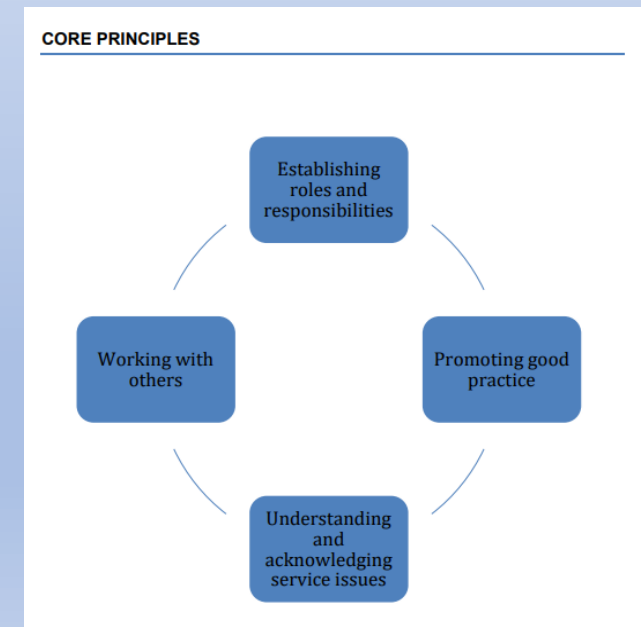
Joint working partnership between BATOD and RCSLT



- [2019 guidance on collaborative working between QToDs and SLTs](#)

The guidance reflects the International Consensus Statement on best practices in family-centred early intervention for deaf children and intends to promote widespread implementation of validated, evidence-based principles (Moeller et al, 2013). This guidance endeavours to capture best practice across the four UK nations. It acknowledges that there is variation across each of the nations and in the flexibility that services provide across the nations.

- BATOD is also involved with Ofqual consultations on access to examinations and particularly in the current pandemic where formal examinations are not being used; we work in close collaboration on this with RNIB, VIEW and NDCS



SLTs working with QToDs

- Parents are still being given conflicting advice from professionals over communication modality, particularly deaf babies undergoing cochlear implants.
- We should be encouraging families to make use of all sensory inputs – visual and sound. We don't tell blind people to stop using their hearing skills in order to 'boost' their eyesight skills?

Hi lovlies, so my little one, he's 18 months old, goes in for cochlear implant surgery next month and has wore HAs since 8 weeks old. (We are so excited, nervous, happy and overwhelmed with emotion in general lol) He is bilaterally profoundly deaf.

His main specialist told us on initial diagnosis that although he would be a candidate for the cochlear implants that in his professional opinion it would hinder his development to be taught BSL as the Cochlear Implant would give him a huge opportunity of being able to speak, and hear as well as anyone else provided we put in the work. At present we are using sign supported language/makaton to communicate with our son and he's coming on really well.

From a support group for families on Facebook

Current research projects/workshops/CPD opportunities



- [EPID](#) (Early Parent Interaction in Deafness) led by SLT Martina Curtin (also achieved her Level 6 in BSL). I am on the advisory board which has a mix of deaf and hearing professionals. The discussions taken place so far has been brilliant because of this mixture.
- [READY study](#) – still looking for participants aged between 16-19 before the end of June 2020
- BATOD running [CPD webinar sessions](#) throughout the year; next one on 18th May on 'Teaching and Learning'. I will be giving a talk on how we can support young deaf teens to advocate for themselves if that entices you!
- Dr Kate Rowley (Sign Language researcher/professor) runs workshops about language acquisition, cognitive development, literacy development and language deprivation throughout the year – follow [Language Wise](#) on Twitter for more info

HOW DEAF CHILDREN DEVELOP LANGUAGE & COGNITIVE SKILLS
Online lectures in BSL on Zoom delivered by Dr Kate Rowley, with interpretation into English

£15 per lecture or £40 for 4 lectures

Sat 24th April - 9am to 10:30am
- language acquisition
Sat 8th May - 9am to 10:30am
- cognitive development
Sat 15th May - 9am to 10:30am
- literacy development
Sat 22nd May - 9am to 10:30am
- language deprivation



drkate.languagewise@gmail.com
WhatsApp/SMS: 07809 743 741

LANGUAGE WISE

Your questions



- Service user survey
 - 68 responses from deaf children and young people - 13% of all survey responses - thank you!
 - 83% said SLT makes their lives better & 25% said it makes their carers' lives better
 - 88% received less or no SLT during lockdown
 - Having less SLT affected education, social life and friendships, home and domestic life, and mental health
 - Mixed views on telehealth
 - Looking forward to working with colleagues & deaf people to help influence for better access to SLT

- Low incidence high need commissioning guidance (Cheshire & Merseyside) and link to Integrated Care Systems
- Clinical guidance on deafness updated in 2021, including new position statement
- Clear face coverings

- RCSLT Position statement: Deafness and speech and language therapy (2021)
- RCSLT and BATOD Best practice guidance for collaborative working between qualified teachers of the deaf and SLTs (2019)
- RCSLT and NDCS Recommendations for commissioning highly specialist speech and language therapy services for children and young people who are deaf (2018)
 - Specialist speech and language therapist for children and young people who are deaf: person specification
 - Case study: A detailed description of the commissioning and service model in Cheshire and Merseyside
- RCSLT Recommendations to support the provision of highly specialist speech and language therapy services for children and young people who have a hearing loss in Scotland (2018)
 - Specialist speech and language therapist for children and young people who have a hearing loss in Scotland: person specification



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