

British Association of Teachers of the Deaf



42nd Annual General Meeting

Saturday 17th March 2018

Linden Lodge School, Wandsworth, London

1.30pm

Annual Report and Accounts 2016-2017

www.batod.org.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Manchester Conference Centre on 11 March 2017
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4 Members' comments and enquiries
- 5 Presidential address – Stuart Whyte
- 6 Annual Report
- 7 Statement of accounts
- 8 Acceptance of Treasurer's report
- 9 Appointment of Auditors
- 10 Election results: Steering Group and NEC members
- 11 Presentation of the Peter Preston Audiology Award
- 12 New Leading Practice Award
- 13 Presentation of the Eichholz Prize
- 14 Presidential handover and address – Steph Halder
- 15 Date and place of next meeting
- 16 Gold Sponsor Update

Minutes of the BATOD Annual General Meeting held at the Manchester Conference Centre on Saturday 11th March 2017

(45 members were present at the AGM).

Apologies for absence: Peter Annear, Ted Moore and Lindsey Rousseau.

Stuart Whyte, the President, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Richard Dummer of P C Werth for the loan of a sound field system to use at the meeting. He explained that we were having this joint conference with Manchester University to celebrate BATOD's 40th Year. It is hoped that consequently there will be a bumper edition of the Magazine in May.

Minutes of the BATOD AGM held in The Millennium Centre, Cardiff, Saturday –12th March 2016

The March 2016 AGM Minutes, which were published in the May 2016 Magazine and in the annual report were approved as a true record; proposed by Corinda Carnelley and seconded by Lesley Gallagher.

Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

Members' comments and enquiries

None.

President's Address: Stuart reviewed the current education climate half way through his tenure as President and the priorities for BATOD in the year ahead. Giving his address on the theme of 'What is the worth of all this?' he quoted from Churchill: "History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days. What is the worth of all this? The only guide to a man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions."

Flagging up the mention in our AGM report, Stuart thanked Susan Gregory for all her hard work on developing and leading the History of Deaf Education resource on the website. Because of that, we can see where we have come from, how far we have come and the many important developments and debates along the way ie "the passion of former days". He suggested that "history teaches us hope in challenge" and asserted that today's Teacher of the Deaf needs an increasingly large range of skills and competences, including the ability to keep up to date with developments in legislation, educational practice and technology and language.

As Stuart had reminded us at the opening of the conference, our onward direction is for a positive future for deaf children with positive outcomes. We can see – through the presentations – the various strategies which are in use and we will need to have the evidence to back these up and to justify them. The challenges, the technology, how language socially changes – from group settings to mainstream – BATOD, he stated, has always been about self-improvement and high-quality experiences – professional development – therefore CPD is key, as is sharing good practice.

Justine Greening (Secretary of State for Education) has said, "Teachers are the experts who inspire the professional of the future, so it is important teaching has the hallmarks of other great professions, including high-quality initial training, clear career pathways and an ongoing culture of self-improvement." (TES ,16 February, 2017). Elsewhere she has said, "I want there to be a culture of high-quality ongoing professional development running like a golden thread through a teacher's

career... I believe that professional development and school improvement are one and the same thing." (Speech to the Association of School and College Leaders, 10 March 2017).

On SEN reforms and funding Stuart noted that a significant number of children have been identified as having a hearing impairment and requiring extra support but they do not have an EHCP. General Deaf Awareness, however, is not specialist intervention! He quoted the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families: "It is imperative we ensure that they all benefit from the new SEN reforms" (Timpson, 2015).

BATOD welcomed the boost of at least £500,000 to every local council's allocation to enable them to expand and improve their SEND provision, although realistically educational settings and support services are facing real-term cuts..

The whole of our Steering Group and National Executive Council have agreed BATOD's focus on supporting high-quality, evidence-based professional development. BATOD has established a working group on "Supporting progress for deaf children" (which is vital) led by Sue Lewis. The President explained that of vital support to all our activities is our web presence and that BATOD has published an invitation to tender for the integrated functions of website, membership, payment and CPD in the context of a new website.

Stuart closed his Presidential address by reminding us that every BATOD member is a Leader in Deaf Education acting with passion and sincerity.

The Annual Report and Accounts 2015-2016: Paul Simpson (National Executive Officer) mentioned the 16 page Annual Report which he had produced and which had been placed on the BATOD website, for all to read (as well as some printed copies, available at the meeting itself). Within this document there is a two page summary/focus.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report/Statement of Accounts: Carol Thomson, the treasurer, mentioned that at next year's AGM she will be moving a small amendment to the Constitution which will be published on the website and in the Magazine. It will be necessary because we will need our Assistant Treasurer, a newly created post (which is currently being piloted) due to the huge workload now to do with membership and accounts, to be allowed to sign accounts, cheques etc. This would be an important piece of succession planning also. Carol will report back to the AGM next year as to how this is going. Carol then presented the accounts which are published within the Annual Report. She drew attention to the fact that the Mary Grace Wilkins fund has now come fully into the BATOD accounts because the trustees of the charity had wound up the fund as it seldom had any applicants. We will, however, continue to make awards in its name. Membership fees are still the same as they have been now for many years. We will tender for the new website which will be a big expense. It will be more interactive and will also be able to make conference applications much easier etc. Hopefully, it will be worth the investment.

The accounts were then unanimously approved by all present. Proposed by Jackie Salter and seconded by Emma Parker.

Approval of the Auditors It was unanimously accepted that the auditor, Ian Wilson, would continue in the role of Examiner of our accounts. Proposed by Sue Lewis and seconded by Jean McAllister.

Election Results for Steering Group and NEC: Paul explained that the election results could be found in the Annual Report and on the website. There had been no actual elections as we still had places available on the NEC. Paul mentioned the newly elected members of the NEC: Anna Smith and Marie Wilkinson. Other members who have been re-elected after their two years or a period of

secondment were – Jane North, Liz Reed-Beadle, Jackie Salter, David Canning and Lesley-Ann Gallagher. With regard to the SG (Steering Group), Mary Gordon has been re-elected as Minuting Secretary. He encouraged delegates to consider standing for election to the NEC. In the meantime, at tomorrow's NEC meeting they will be able to co-opt members to cover any gaps. (Editor's note: Sue Lewis and Naomi Jarrett remain co-opted members until next year when they can stand for election.)

Presentation of the Peter Preston Audiology Award: Stuart announced that this year the cheque for £100 had been won by Claire Boddy who works at the Nottingham Implant Centre. This shows how ToDs work in a wide variety of settings and this wonderfully celebrates Peter's memory. Stuart had already presented the award to Claire. Her article had appeared in the March 2016 edition of the Magazine. This award was established by Peter's family in memory of a deceased and much missed NEC colleague – a dedicated ToD and Audiologist. It is for the best article on audiology published in the BATOD Magazine during that year.

Presentation of the Eichholz Prize: **The universities offering the ToD mandatory qualification course** put forward truly outstanding candidates for the Eichholz. This year, Paul announced that there were two winners – Jane Beadman from the University of Manchester course and Helen Latka from the University of Leeds course. Each in turn received her prize from Stuart.

Date and place of next AGM: Although this is likely to be Saturday, 17th March 2018, in London, the actual venue has yet to be confirmed.

Annual report for BATOD AGM 2018

BATOD has had another busy year and has been involved with a wide range of aspects of deaf education always advocating for the professional interests of Teachers of the Deaf and the educational interest of the children and young people with whom we work.

In the 1990s BATOD undertook to carry out a regular survey into the demographics of deaf education – how many deaf children there were, where they were educated, what their hearing losses were and a range of other information along with how many Teachers of the Deaf and other related data.

For many years Teachers of the Deaf and other professional in the field have been concerned to develop robust data about the progress of deaf pupils as the information from Government statistics greatly underestimates the number of deaf children and therefore is unreliable. Many attempts to persuade Government to collect this data failed – on the grounds that they couldn't do it for deaf and other SI children because they couldn't do it for all SEND. The profession and colleagues decided to undertake it themselves so the CRIDE survey grew out of the BATOD survey and now is well established and highly regarded, even quoted, by ministers in parliament. It produces a report every year. A full account of the development of the CRIDE survey is available on our new website by searching for 'CRIDE survey.'

NatSIP has been collecting benchmarking attainment information for some years which directly looks at attainments rather than just demographic information. CRIDE and NatSIP are now working together on a longitudinal project bringing together the two types of data. This has long been the dream of the CRIDE group and it is marvellous that this is happening now and thanks to funding from the Ovingdean Hall Foundation. This project, carried out at UCL, aims to show which educational 'inputs' lead to positive outcomes and should be very informative for deaf education in the future by showing what factors lead to success.

The CRIDE report this year has shown a significant reduction in the number of Teachers of the Deaf in comparison with five years ago. This reduction is concerning particularly in the light of the age profile of Teachers of the Deaf which means that many will retire in the next five to ten years. We are raising this with the DfE, along with the NDCS and others, and through NatSIP. We feel that one element of the solution would be to have better funding of LAs to support this training but also to have bursaries as the DfE provided some years ago to encourage mainstream teachers interested in deaf education but not working in the field to undertake the training in order to be added to the pool of qualified Teachers of the Deaf.

BATOD continues to liaise closely with the course providers and attends meetings with them to ensure that the profession and the training institutions are working collaboratively. This year we are working on a mentoring scheme, reviving one that was in place some years ago, to support newly qualified teachers as they embark on their career as a Teacher of the Deaf. A second initiative was to co-opt onto our decision-making body, the NEC, two Teachers of the Deaf in training so that they could add their unique perspective to our discussion and debates. Three students are sharing the role from March 2018 and we look forward to welcoming them to the NEC.

Indeed, the NEC has been looking carefully at its composition as we are very keen to ensure full representation of different aspects and roles of the profession on the main decision-making body. It is important that peripatetic services, headteachers (of schools or services), ICToDs, d/Deaf Teachers of the Deaf, course providers, experts in early years and educational audiologists are represented to give depth and knowledge to our discussions. We are constantly on the look-out therefore for gaps which need to be filled and we hope that the NEC will continue to represent the whole gamut of Teachers of the Deaf in the UK.

BATOD has eight regions and nations and it is vital that there is participation from Teachers of the Deaf in those regions and nations in their committees. Some committees are struggling to be quorate. Please consider giving up a small amount of time to get involved with your own region or

nation. You will be warmly welcomed and will find it stimulating and enjoyable. All contact details are available on our website and in the magazine.

One of the core roles of BATOD is to represent the interests of the Teachers of the Deaf and the children and young people they work with on a number of bodies and organisations. BATOD representatives, mainly but not solely Paul Simpson as National Executive Officer, report to and take policy from the NEC. For many years we have been a key member of the Access Consultation Forum of Ofqual raising issues to do so with access to examinations for deaf candidates. We have always found these meetings to be supportive and constructive. The JCQ, another member, has always tried to respond to our questions about access in order to ensure that our candidates are competing on a level playing field, and that any barriers to their showing the examiner what they know and can do, are removed.

One issue which has concerned us is that one of the awarding bodies has summarily stopped using BATOD trained modifiers to modify, either at source or after production, examination papers for deaf students. Other awarding bodies draw on this expertise, as has been the case for many years and which helps to satisfy their duties under the Equality Act, which requires disadvantage to be removed where possible. One of the bodies, OCR, has ceased to use BATOD modifiers in this process relying on training given to its question setters. This is highly concerning and has led to some examination papers which demonstrated that appropriate modifications had not been made. We are in conversation with Ofqual on this and they are looking into it. Please let us know of any concerns you have about the quality of the language of examinations – there is a feedback form on our website on which you can highlight both good and poor quality papers.

BATOD has continued to play a strong role in the work of NatSIP. We have stressed that NatSIP is a partnership of organisations – services, schools, charities and professional bodies such as ours – not a competitor or rival. NatSIP only exists through the partnership and BATOD is a key player. The roles are quite distinctive although there is overlap in raising the profile of the needs of children with sensory impairment and supporting the workforce specialist and mainstream.

Along with Rory Cobb, Paul Simpson wrote a document, which appears on the NatSIP website and is open to all as registration is free. This document brings together information about access arrangements for candidates with sensory impairment into a specialist document taking material from the comprehensive access booklet produced by JCQ which covers all aspects of access for candidates with SEND. This has recently been updated to reflect the latest regulations so please make colleagues aware of it. This year's NatSIP programme has included transferring the content of that document into an elearning course to support the work of SENCOs and other professionals, as a reference resource for specialists. Following on from this we intend to develop an online course to support the training of language modifiers for examinations using tutors to provide assessment as well.

Looking to the future as you will have seen from the website and magazine we have been working on the development of a new website which we were able to launch in February. It is an exciting prospect and we hope that members will appreciate it. In order to satisfy the new General Data Protection Regulation requirements we will need to get explicit permission from each member to allow us to make use of your data (eg to send you the magazines and journals) so it is crucial that we have your email address. Some members who joined many years ago might never have submitted an email address to BATOD. If you think that might be you, please send us your email address at the earliest opportunity. If you receive the electronic newsletter you can be assured that we have your email address. Linked to this is the development of our CPD support for members. On the new website there will be a dedicated section for CPD. This will include information about different types of CPD, available courses, an opportunity for blog posts about good CPD activity and a CPD log for the use of members – this last in conjunction with NatSIP. We hope that members will find it a great advantage to their professional work allowing them to record and comment on their CPD activity, see where the gaps are and use the evidence to support job applications and achieve personal development goals. We hope this too will be launched at the AGM.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF

ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

The British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Accounts – year to 31 July 2017

Independent Examiner's report to the members of British Association of Teachers of the Deaf

On the accounts of the Association for the period 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017

Respective responsibilities of National Treasurer and examiner

The National Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with best accounting practice. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the officers concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Association Constitution have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached..

Signed:

Date:

IAN B WILSON C.A.
4A High Street,
Bonnyrigg,
Midlothian
EH19 2AA

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2016**

	<u>2017</u> £	<u>2017</u> £	<u>2016</u> £
INCOME			
Membership subscriptions		89,523	88,417
Publications & Journal		76,862	70,803
Conference & exhibitions		53,921	15,615
Sundry income		558	-
Interest received		458	1,585
Mary Grace Wilkins Fund – funds transferred		-	28,020
		<u>221,322</u>	<u>204,440</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Salary	38,214		37,835
Employer's NI	1,137		1,309
Pension contributions	2,995		2,889
	<u>42,346</u>		<u>42,033</u>
Peter Preston Award	100		100
Nicaragua project	1,000		-
Journal	23,000		22,600
Project management	5,520		5,415
Magazine	15,034		12,372
Conference costs	52,120		10,726
NEC meetings	20,808		11,074
Representation meetings	5,548		3,679
Steering Group meetings	4,539		4,274
Payments to Regions	1,536		1,063
Website	6,343		6,760
Special payments	601		225
Membership refunds	2,336		2,180
	<u></u>	180,831	<u>122,501</u>
ADMIN EXPENDITURE			
Office costs	10,353		5,753
Direct debit management charges	1,233		1,269
Independent examination fee	1,560		1,440
	<u></u>	13,146	<u>8,462</u>
TOTAL COSTS		<u>193,977</u>	<u>130,963</u>
NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR		27,345	73,477
TAXATION		73	317
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		<u><u>27,272</u></u>	<u><u>73,160</u></u>

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF
BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2017

	<u>2017</u> £	<u>2017</u> £	<u>2016</u> £
INVESTMENTS			
Deposit Bond		8,000	<u>8,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	36,889		15,305
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>212,652</u>		<u>194,007</u>
	<u>249,541</u>		<u>209,312</u>
CREDITORS – AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Due to HMRC	472		708
Income received in advance	11,029		7,053
Accruals	<u>35,477</u>		<u>30,058</u>
	<u>46,978</u>		<u>37,819</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		202,563	171,493
NET ASSETS		<u><u>210,563</u></u>	<u><u>179,493</u></u>
FUNDS			
General Fund		192,600	165,328
Eichholz Memorial Fund		1,079	1,078
Con Powell Memorial Scholarship		16,052	12,052
Language Modification		832	1,035
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>210,563</u></u>	<u><u>179,493</u></u>

The accounts were approved by AGM of the association
on 2018 and signed on its behalf by

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017
MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance at 1/8/16 £	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/7/17 £
General Fund	165,328	221,322	194,050	192,600
Eichholz Memorial Fund	1,078	201	200	1,079
ConPowell	12,052	29,120	25,120	16,052
Language Modification	1,035	-	203	832
	<u>179,493</u>	<u>250,643</u>	<u>219,573</u>	<u>210,563</u>

Elections to the National Executive Council 2018-2020

Nominations – all elected unopposed

President Elect

Lesley-Ann Gallagher

Treasurer

Carol Thomson

Elected members

Jill Bussien, Naomi Jarrett, Martine Monksfield, Eleanor Pattison, Rhiannon Ritchie, Nicky Weightman

Think about standing for NEC 2019-2020

BATOD members are urged to consider sharing their expertise, skills and enthusiasm with colleagues by serving on National Executive Council within workstreams and working parties. Please contact the National Executive Officer, Paul Simpson, so that you may be included in appropriate on-going work.

Eight regions/nations serve BATOD members providing contacts, workshops and meetings. Local networking is important to ensure that information and good practice are shared. Please offer your help to regional/national committees as the involvement of local ToDs is essential to ensure that support within the areas can be provided and to use the strengths of colleagues.

Membership of NEC 2018-2020

Steering Group

Halder, Stephanie (President)
Gallagher, Lesley-Ann (President Elect)
Thomson, Carol (Treasurer)
Gordon, Mary (Minuting Secretary)
Couch, David (Consultant)
Simpson, Paul (National Executive Officer)
Whyte, Stuart (Past President, ex officio)

Regional/national representatives

Angove, Sarah (Wales)
Ayres, Allison (Wales)
Goler, Sandy (North)
Maiden, Helen (South West)
McAllister, Jean (Scotland)
Millar, Rebecca (N Ireland)
Parker, Emma (South)
Quail, Teresa (East)
vacancy (Midlands)

Elected members

Bussien, Jill
Canning, David
Jarrett, Naomi
Monksfield, Martine
North, Jane
Pattison, Eleanor
Reed-Beadle, Elizabeth
Ritchie, Rhiannon
Salter, Jackie
Smith, Anna
Weightman, Nicky
Wilkinson, Marie

Co-opted

Denny, Sue
Igoe, Rebecca
McLean, Heather
Shaw, Kate

Election addresses by nominees to the BATOD National Executive Council 2018-2020

President Elect

Lesley-Ann Gallagher

I have been privileged to be an elected member of BATOD for five years and this has given me a great insight into the organisation and see the influence and breadth of support it offers to members, the profession and to the outcomes and life chances of deaf children.

I am a Manager of a Sensory and Physical Teaching Service and have worked in many different settings as a ToD including primary and secondary resource bases, a school for the Deaf, and as a peripatetic ToD. I have also worked as a teacher in special schools, language units and in the NHS as a Speech and Language Therapist. I am passionate about deaf education and have particular interests in the early years, assessment and improving outcomes. This passion drove me to seeking election to BATOD's NEC and now to President Elect.

I believe that this is a time of significant change in special education and that there are challenges for us as a profession ahead. As always BATOD will be at the forefront of these changes representing our interests. It would be an honour for me to support the President and the NEC in ensuring that we respond to these challenges and secure a strong foothold within a changing landscape, always with the best long-term interests of deaf children and young people at the heart.



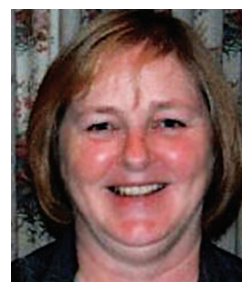
Treasurer

Carol Thomson

I wish to be considered for re-election as Treasurer for BATOD. I first took on this role in May 2013 and since then have been improving and updating the smooth running of our financial affairs. This work is ongoing and I would like the opportunity to take this further.

I am now a retired Teacher of the Deaf having left my post as Teacher of the Deaf/Business Education Teacher at Donaldson's, West Lothian in September 2013. My original post on NEC was as the Scottish Representative. I also completed two years as Minuting Secretary.

At a local level I am an active member of BATOD Scotland committee. In the past I have been Chair and Treasurer of this committee.



NEC members

Naomi Jarrett – NEC member

I have been a Teacher of the Deaf for 6 years and a CSW for a number of years before that. I currently work in a resource provision for deaf learners in a secondary school in London. I am passionate about seeing deaf young people develop a strong identity and realise that being deaf need not stop them from achieving their dreams and ambitions in life. In the mainstream school where I work I meet many hearing young adults who would love to take a GCSE in BSL and I am a strong supporter of seeing this option available on the curriculum.



Jill Bussien – NEC member

For several years, I worked full time as a Specialist Teacher (HI) in Kent. Presently, I work part time at a college in Kent.

I continue to be interested in Post 16 education.

- I am concerned about the availability of quality support for the learners, and the erosion of access to ToDs and other qualified staff and their training.
- I am interested in the transition from school into Post 16 education, the availability of courses or training, and the general lack of opportunities for



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employment after education, for young deaf adults.

At present, I am Chair of adept and in this position; I endeavour to work with other professional bodies to improve the education of deaf learners.

By standing for election, I hope to continue the association between BATOD and adept, so improving the opportunities and standards for the deaf children and young people.

Eleanor Pattison – NEC member

This is my eleventh year as a Teacher of the Deaf, and in that time I have worked in a school for the deaf, as a peripatetic teacher and in integrated resources in mainstream primary and secondary schools. I am currently working in a secondary resource for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Over the last few years I have gained experience of working with deaf children with additional needs, including those with complex needs, and also with deaf young people from the Roma community.



I was previously a member of NEC from 2010 to 2016, and this experience brought a lot of value to my career and my understanding of the profession nationwide. During my time on NEC I supported our move to set up a Facebook page and Twitter account, and spent some time as a Commissioning Editor and Website Manager. I have a wide range of research interests, and whilst in recent years I have concentrated on my interest in social media, I am hoping to explore other aspects of deaf education over the next few years.

As a member of NEC I hope to continue to support BATOD by running our social media accounts along with Paul Simpson, and to contribute to the future of deaf education across the UK.

Martine Monksfield – NEC member

My name is Martine Monksfield and I am currently working as a peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf for Haringey and Enfield Council's Deaf Services. I used to be a CSW at a Deaf secondary school. I have taught at a Deaf Primary school and also in a deaf resource provision in a mainstream primary school. Before I embarked on my teaching career, I worked as a PA to Bencie Woll, who was the director of DCAL (Deafness, Cognition and Language) research centre which was my first formal experience in Deaf research. Voluntarily, I used to be a fundraising/PR officer for Great Britain Deaf Football and was the Media Assistant for UK Deaf Sport at the 21st Deaflympics in Taiwan. This range of experience has meant I feel I've learnt so much without realising it!



I am Deaf myself, and on the advice given by well-intentioned Teachers of the Deaf to my family in N Ireland 30 years ago, was brought up orally. My secondary placement at a Deaf boarding school in England thankfully exposed me to British Sign Language as a 2nd language, which has been crucial to my social and emotional well-being. I grew up with hearing aids before my hearing loss deteriorated to the point I needed a cochlear implant. I like to think I have good knowledge and experience in knowing the benefits of both languages and both amplification modalities.

Rhiannon Ritchie – NEC member

My passion for education began when I studied my first degree in Fine Art, which I completed in Plymouth. Whilst undertaking my degree I worked throughout school holidays for Blackburn with Darwen Young People's Services with the disability team. I also worked for an organisation at weekends for children with SEND in Plymouth. Using my creative skills to ensure positive experiences for young people led me to enrol on a teacher training course in 2014.

I chose to complete my Primary PGCE through the Schools Direct route as I could gain as much experience as I could in good and outstanding schools within the Blackburn and Darwen area, whilst receiving high quality training from local



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professionals.

I am currently in my third year of teaching; I am a mainstream supply teacher in primary education. I completed my NQT year working in a small mainstream school and taught children aged 3-11. I gained experience of the curriculum and expectations throughout school and enjoyed working with children from Nursery to Year 6. Previous to this, I worked in a challenging setting; the class included children with EBD, EAL and SEND. I loved the challenge of engaging all pupils in an exciting and creative curriculum which I was able to adapt and innovate to meet the needs of the class.

I am passionate about my job and enjoy seeking opportunities in order to gain as much experience and knowledge as possible. Deaf Education is a particular interest of mine as it is so diverse and offers teachers the opportunity to work with children from early years up until further education. I am currently completing a Teacher of the Deaf PGDip at the University of Manchester.

As I am at the beginning of my career in deaf education, I would like to gain as much experience and knowledge as possible and I want to become more involved in the work that BATOD does.

Nicky Weightman

I have been a Teacher of the Deaf for over 25 years and have spent the majority of that time teaching severely or profoundly deaf youngsters in firstly a Secondary Unit, then in two different Primary Units.

I moved back to a Secondary Resource Base 5 years ago where I immediately became involved in the modern exam system, soon witnessing the difficulties and frustrations that deaf students experience when trying to access examination questions.

When the opportunity arose, I undertook BATOD training to become an accredited examination modifier, which has been, and still is, an extremely satisfying role. The work, I feel, allows me to make a positive difference for deaf students, but from a position outside of teaching.

I have also enjoyed acting as a mentor for colleagues undertaking the MQ PGDip course and as an External Teaching Placement Supervisor for the University of Manchester and, more recently, the University of Birmingham.

For the past 2 years my role within the service has been in the peripatetic field, a main focus being within secondary schools that have large numbers of deaf students on roll.

I have been on the BATOD North committee for a little under a year and have enjoyed the meetings, discussions and helping to organise the annual BATOD North study day enormously and would like to continue this work on a national level.

My main interests are training future Teachers of the Deaf and continuing the drive for the accessibility of examinations. However, all aspects of deafness and deaf education interest me and I feel that I possess a wide knowledge and experience base to offer the National Executive Committee.



Officers of Nations and Regions

Northern Ireland batodnireland@batod.org.uk

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