

## Teachers of the Deaf and APD:

Teachers of the Deaf already have the skills to advise mainstream teaching and support staff about the educational management of APD. Their understanding of the potential obstacles to learning for children with hearing loss *and* their expertise in supporting them to reach their potential academically, socially and emotionally, will also benefit those with APD.

Teachers of the Deaf:

- Understand audiology
- They know about types of hearing loss, auditory neuropathies and the implications for learning
- Know how to develop early listening skills
- They are able to advise teachers about improving classroom listening conditions
- They have expertise in personal assistive listening devices (ALDs) and classroom soundfield systems
- They are able to suggest ways of tweaking teaching styles and resources to improve access to the curriculum for children with hearing/listening difficulties and enabling children to become independent learners
- They support students to develop self help strategies that minimise the effects of hearing loss
- They work in partnership with parents, medics, audiologists, therapists, teachers and learning support staff. They are integral to the 'team around the child'
- They contribute to individual learning plans and EHCPs

In other words, good practice for a child with hearing loss is also good practice for a child with APD. However, Teachers of the Deaf in Advisory Teams often have very large caseloads and must prioritise children and young people with hearing loss - their time for APD is limited. Nevertheless, APD is a condition that prevents a child from listening to their teachers effectively and their learning is compromised. LA Services for Deaf Children that do not yet offer advice for APD might consider a policy that, as a minimum:

- Provides an explanatory APD leaflet and a 'point of contact' number for general advice and guidance
- Signposts families and teachers to online resources such as this MESH Guide, the BSA APD pages and support groups
- Offers advice on the correct use of ALDs, when prescribed
- Raises awareness of APD during HI training for mainstream staff

Compiled by Pauline Grant, Teacher of the Deaf, Lead Consultant at Listen to Learn. 2018.

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