

Educational Audiologists Jobs & Skills Audit by the BAEA

At the 2008 Conference, there was a lively discussion about what the Educational Audiologist's rôle is. It is clear that Ed Auds have different responsibilities in different Authorities, each making use of our specialist skills. It was suggested that we should conduct an audit of the range of responsibilities, pay, skills etc of Educational Audiologists working for Local Authorities, Schools for the Deaf and Health. Educational Audiologists have a qualification which has changed over the years: MEd, MSc, Diploma – with course content changing as technology advanced (FM, DSP hearing aids etc) and as demands for evidence changed requirements (Assessing Room Acoustics, Speech Acoustics etc).

The purpose of this Audit is to discover what is happening across the UK. It is for all Ed Auds, not just members of BAEA because the more data that is obtained, the clearer the picture will be. This is a **confidential** trawl of information conducted by the Chairman with only the data resulting from the responses being published. Please include your name and the name of your Employer, this information will not be referred to, it will only be used to focus the audit, for example to highlight geographical differences, or to enable the Chairman to contact you for more information/ clarification. Having names will also make it a valid audit. Please fill in as much information as possible – the more there is, the better the analysis – so add notes to clarify your entries if you think it will help.

It may be possible for our Association to make recommendations about the essential roles of Ed Auds within Services; possibly suggesting the proportion of children to Ed Auds for Clinic work (or maybe not!); possibly showing several different job descriptions which work in different (unnamed) LA/ Health ways of working. Patterns may emerge which show a clear definition of the rôle. It has been suggested (by BAEA members caught in Local Authority cost-cutting reorganisation) that the BAEA might suggest an equivalent school post for pay... **None of these will be done without consultation of the membership.** None could be contemplated without a secure information base as a starting point.

I believe that Educational Audiologists are an essential part of the service for deaf children and that we will only survive and be treated as essential professionals if we demonstrate our effectiveness. We do this for children all the time: funding and support only come after quantifying and demonstrating the need.

Please either: print this off (and give a copy to any Ed Aud who would like to join in, fill it in and post it to: Peter Keen, Chairman BAEA, 4, Durnford Close, Chilbolton, STOCKBRIDGE, Hants, SO20 6AP. OR download it to your desktop (& forward a copy to any Ed Aud who hasn't seen it), fill it in and attach it to an email to: peter.keenhearing@btinternet.com

CONFIDENTIAL

| | |
|---|--|
| Name | |
| Employer | |
| Name of pay scale + range of annual pay eg £38K to £42k | |
| Job title | |
| Position within the department | |
| Full time/ Part time (specify %age FTE) | |
| Course (Uni)/ Qualification/ Academic year | |

| Your Areas of Skill** (to see if update courses might be offered) | ✓ or X + state if part of original qualification or from a separate course | (for analysis) |
|---|--|----------------|
| Otoscopy | | |
| Earmould impression taking | | |
| Programming DSP Aids | | |
| Measuring Room Acoustics/ reporting implications for acoustic treatment | | |
| Frequency-specific analysis of speech discrim. + phonology to inform hearing aid settings | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

**PTA (2004 BSA regs), Tymps & HATB are assumed to be up to date – if not, say so...

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Would you be interested in training courses in any of the above to update your skills? Name the course(s): | yes | no |
|--|-----|----|

| Area of work | ✓ to confirm which areas you work in & indicate proportion of time spent on each | (for analysis) |
|--|---|----------------|
| ABR confirmation clinic(s) | | |
| Diagnostic clinic~ (not babies) | | |
| Hearing aid 1 st fitting clinic | | |
| Pre-school h.a. review clinic | | |
| School age h.a. review clinic | | |
| Special school work | | |
| Pre-school caseload | | |
| Infant Caseload* | | |
| Junior Caseload* | | |
| Secondary Caseload | | |
| 16+ Caseload | | |
| Assessing Room Acoustics | | |
| Staff (e.g.ToD) CPD delivered | | |
| Office/ Admin/ reports etc | | |
| Received personal CPD | | |
| Planning meetings: Buildings | | |
| Setting up sound field systems | | |
| Troubleshooting equipment etc | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

~ state if e.g.amalgamated with h. a. review clinics

*Inf & Jun can be bracketed as Primary

Thank you for taking the time to fill this in – it is important for us to have a nationwide picture.
Peter Keen Chairman, BAEA Oct 2009