

BAEA Meeting 17.03.2007

Proposal by Peter Keen,
Course Leader for the MSc in Educational Audiology, Mary Hare/ Oxford Brookes University,
Deputy Director of Educational Development & Inclusion: Audiology (Mary Hare Training).

This draft statement is offered to the Association for consideration. The proposal is that the BAEA should present this statement to the Government to accept as a requirement for Local Authorities and hearing aid providers. It could be supported by known examples where deaf children have had very poor or bad service from hospitals or Authorities, where advice from an Educational Audiologist has not been sought or taken. Peter Keen has offered to approach other interested parties eg NDCS to see if a joint presentation of this idea is possible.

The statement:

Deaf and Hearing-Impaired children¹ and their families have a right:

- **to the presence of a qualified Educational Audiologist in any clinic where children's deafness is diagnosed or reviewed.** This would not include temporary hearing losses such as 'glue ear', but would include all sensorineural hearing losses, and any chronic conductive hearing loss due to malformation etc of the ear. [Diagnosis: eg at 1st ABR test following two failures at AABR for babies or for 2nd (confirmation) hearing test on an older child]. Informed, specialist advice about auditory access and education is essential at time of diagnosis.
- **to the presence of a qualified Educational Audiologist in any clinic where hearing aids are recommended, issued, programmed or reviewed/ reprogrammed.** Children's auditory needs are different from deafened adult needs. Liaison with the local Teachers of the Deaf is essential
- **to the advice and possible assessment from a qualified Educational Audiologist regarding acoustics of learning areas, FM systems (and peripheral equipment), Sound Field Systems etc.** Areas where specialist audiological knowledge and techniques are essential to ensure appropriate access to education.
- **to their Teacher of the Deaf (in preschool, mainstream or Resourced Unit) having access to advice & support from a qualified Educational Audiologist.**
- **to their School for the Deaf having the appropriate number of Educational Audiologists to review hearing, group hearing aid provision and personal hearing aid provision.** They would also monitor/ check hearing aids and cochlear implants, arrange for repair and arrange for earmould replacement.
- **for each Local Authority to have an Educational Audiologist on the staff** to provide the above essential services and provide regular training to maintain good Teacher of the Deaf Continual Professional Development in Audiology - an area where change is frequent and rapid.

¹ Deaf and Hearing Impaired children: This would include children from 0 years to 16 years and those continuing in education until the Summer of their 18th birthday. All hearing losses from Unilateral, Mild, Moderate, Severe to Profound as defined in bullet point 1