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Historical first - professional registration for Educational Audiologists

The first ever professional registration for Educational Audiologists has been announced by the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA). The voluntary registration is with UK's Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) who enforce high standards of practice and maintain a public database of registrants for six disciplines.

BAEA are extremely pleased to make this announcement because of the benefits for children and young people who are deaf and their families. Professional registration will improve joined-up working between Health and Education, and promote public recognition of the need for these links and the educational audiology role that fulfils it in many authorities. These issues have been evidenced empirically (2017 BATOD* conference presentation cited in 2017 Department for Education *Future of the Sector* report) and anecdotally (BAEA case studies, and MESH** knowledge management Guides); and will feature in a British Society of Audiology's upcoming CPD module, and internationally at the Hearing Across the Lifespan conference 2018. Professional registration is timely news because of the threat of budget cuts to essential support services most often provided by the non-mandatory Educational Audiology role.

Since the 1990's, Educational Audiologists have been trained at Mary Hare, now affiliated with University of Hertfordshire. This MSc/PGDiploma course, based on BAEA competencies, has now been accredited by the RCCP supported by the British Academy of Audiology (BAA), opening the way for registration. New graduates of the course will be automatically eligible to register, and others can apply via an equivalency process. Efforts begun with the 1970's Education Act and fostered by several leaders in the field since then, have now come to fruition.

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