

NatSIP National Working Day and HoSS Event, 3rd October 2018**BATOD representing the profession**

During this year the BATOD National Executive Council (NEC) has reviewed its membership to ensure that its ruling body represents the range of roles and settings of Teachers of the Deaf current in the four countries of the UK. In particular, we have arranged a co-opted place on the NEC for teachers in training to be qualified ToDs. This means that the course providers encourage one or two of the trainee ToDs to come to NEC meetings to be the voice of those in training and in their very early years in the profession. This is working well and one such member has since joined the NEC by being elected in her own right.

We have also ensured that the NEC contains representatives from the course providers, the cochlear implant centres, Deaf ToDs, post-16 ToDs through a representative of their own professional body, adept, and educational audiologists.

BATOD conference 2019

After the success of the Manchester conference we have decided to have another two-day conference. This time it is in Manchester and will take place in March. The theme will be "Deaf education, past, present and future". Keynote speakers will be Dr Sue Gregory who will be talking about the development of the deaf history element of our website, Ian Noon from NDCS, Dani Sive from Frank Barnes School and Wendy McCracken who, although she has retired and is working on her own conference in June to celebrate 100 years of research in deaf education in June, is giving another keynote looking at the sweep of developments she has seen during her career and the lessons for the future to be derived from it. We have a rich range of workshops and all are welcome to apply. See our website for further details.

New website

We are pleased with our new website which has now been in place for over six months and hope you have had the opportunity to visit it. It has made joining BATOD much easier and we are certain that it has increased our membership and offered more to existing members. Members seem happy with it. As you will have learnt elsewhere, we are working on the development of a vibrant CPD area which is a key aspect of our support to members. We are hoping that there will be wide participation in our online forum in which colleagues will be able to support each other's CPD, making suggestions and evaluating activities.

BATOD throughout the UK

We are conscious that education in general (and education of deaf children in particular) is very varied across the UK. We endeavour to support all our members across the UK and to this end have eight regions and nations. They have their own committees and arrange their own CPD and conferences. Until recently BATOD South had been finding it very difficult to thrive with very few members going to meetings and wishing to participate. After a social media campaign and the encouragement of senior colleagues in the profession I am pleased to say that BATOD South had over 15 people at its last committee meeting and has filled all the key roles. These committees feed into the National Executive Council allowing the whole profession to support members from across BATOD's different regions and nations.

Steph Halder, October 2018