



Conference 2016

Common purpose: working together on deafness and hearing loss

Following a year of successful partnerships, our 2016 conference is a showcase and celebration of what we can achieve when we work together.

As well as the sessions below there will be lots of opportunity for discussion, and a chance to speak to our sponsors during breaks and lunch. All refreshments are kindly provided by BT.

We look forward to seeing you at 9.30am on Wednesday 2 November. The venue is BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ.

Finding our common purpose

In 2014, our members told us we should work together to identify a common purpose. Two years later, we have a statement of common purpose, and six mission groups working towards making our vision a reality. Craig Crowley, chair of the common purpose steering group, will explain how we reached this point, update delegates on the work of the mission groups and ask what they think of the process so far.

Collaborating with government

We provide administrative and strategic support to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness. Its chair, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, will explain how the Group, the sector and government have been working together to the benefit of people who are deaf or have a hearing loss.

Telecommunications for people who are deaf or have a hearing loss

The National Association of Deafened People (NADP) – in partnership with the National Deaf Children's Society, Hearing Link, Sense, BT and Sky – recently asked people how they use the telephone. In particular, they wanted to know about their experiences of the Next Generation Text Relay service. NADP will present the results of the survey, and explain how it will be used to improve services.

Improving NHS provision for dementia and neurological disorders in deaf people

The Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre at University College London, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, the UCL Dementia Research Centre and SignHealth have together developed resources and services for NHS patients who use BSL. They will talk about how working together led to the first specialist neurology clinic for deaf people, and created resources that are used around the world.

Providing advice, information and resources for hearing aid users in Gibraltar

The Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service and Gibraltar Hearing Impairment and Tinnitus Association have together provide the Gibraltar Hearing Advisory Service. They will talk about how their partnership is making sure members of a small community receive the support they need.

Improving outcomes for younger people

NatSIP is a well established partnership that continues to make sure younger people with a sensory impairment have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Delegates will be told about successful past projects, and NatSIP's current work, which includes a project to improve commissioning.

Raising awareness of deafness and hearing loss

CAS Training Solutions and Silent World together deliver deaf awareness sessions. They will tell delegates about their success so far, and how they intend to continue their relationship by working with employers and deaf job seekers.

Access to Work: solving problems in partnership

In 2014 our members started to tell us deaf people were having significant problems with the government's Access to Work scheme. Two years later the scheme is much improved and getting better. Delegates will learn about the fruitful relationship that developed between the UK Council on Deafness and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Fitting radio aids to very young people

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and the Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service have worked together to evaluate management issues and practical considerations when providing radio aids to very young people. They will summarise what they have discovered and how it will benefit young people in future.

Supporting people who are deaf or have a hearing loss in Shropshire

The charity Signal and Shropshire NHS Audiology have been delivering awareness raising, education, information and services since January 2015. They will talk about the how the partnership developed and the realities of working collaboratively.