**APPG on Deafness Meeting, 1st July 2025, 1000-1100**

Venue: Room R, Portcullis House

**Attendance**

* Catherine Atkinson MP
* Peter Prinsley MP
* Elizabeth Pugsley (Senior Parliamentary Assistant)
* Rob Geaney (RNID – Secretariat)
* Kara Killeen (RNID)
* Victoria Bishop-Rowe (AVUK)
* Justin Cooke (NDCS)
* Nathan Draper (SignHealth)
* Steph Lotz (SignLive)
* Rob Shepheard (Listen for Life)

**Agenda**

1. Feedback from the agreed actions at the last meeting

Reform of the Audiology Pathway

Peter Prinsley updated the group on a meeting with the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) where he heard an update from Hear for Norfolk CEO Aliona Derrett. NHS community-based adult audiology services were moved out of district hospitals to charities already operating in the region. It has shown improved community access and patient satisfaction.

The group also discussed whether the APPG should respond to any recommendations from the Review Board on the 10 Year Health Plan.

Actions

* RNID to arrange a 15-minute presentation by Aliona Derrett at the next meeting and APPG to write to minister Stephen Kinnock with insights following the event.
* APPG to review recommendations on the 10 Year Health Plan and agree any points to respond.

Access to Healthcare

The group has received no response from Stephen Kinnock on attending a Joint APPG on sensory loss. The group also discussed challenges with the Accessible Information Standard and concerns around delayed or scrapped publication of an updated version.

Actions

* RNID to follow up on letter.
* APPG to look into a call to publish updated or alternative AIS.

Employment opportunities for people who are deaf or have hearing loss

The group discussed potential priorities out of a number of policy options. Focus on the Access to Work scheme was agreed to be prioritised due to its significance to deaf people and people with hearing loss being able to access work, and it’s timely nature due to the Green Paper.

The group discussed the potential for collecting case studies to present to Stephen Timms, with SignHealth signalling that they have a video of case studies.

The group also discussed the Action Deafness Job Fair held in Birmingham on 27 June 2025. The group agreed that it would be positive to continue these type of events and replicate across communities.

Actions

* Starting with the SignHealth case studies, charities to collate a small number of case studies to present to Stephen Timms in the Autumn.
* SignLive to share more on the Action Deafness job fair, collate list of MPs who have significant deaf communities in their constituencies to discuss replicating events.

Celebrating deaf achievement and culture within Parliament

The group discussed the planning of a Speaker’s House event celebrating deaf achievement in Autumn 2025. Planning is underway with potential dates in October and November and a meeting scheduled in early July to kick off planning.

Actions

* RNID to update members of the APPG on any dates for the event and coordinate invitations for guests.

1. Presentation by Rob Shepheard from the Listen for Life campaign

The group heard from Rob Shepheard, a clinical audiologist from the Listen for Life campaign, whose mission is to reduce hearing loss by 50% in young people in the UK by partnering with advocates in the nightlife and live entertainment sector. Rob shared information on the organisation’s activity and advocacy, including research on alternative hearing tests, sourcing hearing protection at cost and providing to workers and attendees of events.

The group discussed whether increased regulation or increased enforcement on noise levels would support these aims, highlighting the effects of cuts to HSE. The group also discussed the opportunity to look at best practice from other industries, such as construction that has a strong culture of HSE.

Actions

* APPG can support in asking written questions to shine light on issues.
* Listen for Life may benefit from appealing to collaboration across other APPGs such as the APPG for Opera which focuses on music in schools.

1. Opportunities for young people to speak about going through Auditory Verbal Training

Action

The group discussed the opportunity for parliamentarians to meet with young people who have gone through Auditory Verbal Training in early 2026.