

**Response to:**

**The consultation document on the Scottish Government's draft national standards for adult hearing rehabilitation services**

The Scottish Course to Train Tutors of Lipreading (SCTTL) is the only organisation in Scotland concerned with the training of lipreading tutors. The importance of lipreading as a rehabilitative tool for people with a hearing loss has completely been missed in this document and we feel strongly that it should be given a higher profile. Unfortunately, the benefits of lipreading are not fully understood by many people both inside and outside of hearing related services. We are very happy to provide information about lipreading and its many benefits if requested, as it appears that nobody was consulted about lipreading when this document was written.

We would like to make the following relevant comments:-

**P14 – Standard 1 – Accessing the service**

As part of their training, lipreading tutors learn about the many problems that can occur with hearing aids and many tutors are themselves hearing aid wearers. Lipreading tutors should be referred to in this respect.

**P15 – Standard 2 - 2aiii – criteria**

We feel that lipreading should be specifically mentioned rather than grouped in with other agencies, as it is a very important part of the rehabilitation process.

**P19 – 4ai – criteria**

Again lipreading should be mentioned specifically rather than being grouped in with other agencies.

**P25-26 - Standard 8 – communication support and collaborative working.**

Lipreading should be specifically mentioned here.

**P40 – Good information prior to and after assessment**

When someone is referred by their GP to Audiology, they should be given information about local lipreading services at that time. There can be a long period of time where you are left without a hearing aid and without any other support or rehabilitation. A great

loss of confidence can occur during this period. We would like to see closer links between GP's, Audiology departments and lipreading services.

P42 – Meeting specific communication/information needs

Deaf Awareness and Communication Training

Many lipreading tutors are qualified in both of the above and it would make sense to tap into these resources to train GP's and Audiology service personnel.

P51 – Factors for consideration in developing the IMP

Lipreading should be specifically mentioned here under options for rehabilitation.

P53 – Referral to other agencies and services

Again lipreading needs a specific mention and referrals need to be made at the time of the initial visit to the GP.

P55 - Achieving ongoing use and benefit from hearing aids

This is one of the most important benefits of attending a lipreading class. Many people give up wearing their hearing aids as they have been given no support and are unable to get the benefit from them. People who attend lipreading classes are given this support and learn how to use their aids to the best effect.

P70 – Support for patients

Lipreading needs to be specifically mentioned here.

P72 – Working together

We believe that if lipreading services worked together with both GP's and Audiology services then a much better rehabilitative service could be provided.

We know that many people have greatly benefited from attending a lipreading class and it has prevented these people from losing confidence and becoming socially isolated. Most people are unaware of exactly what happens within a lipreading class and the breadth of help and advice that a lipreading tutor can provide – it is not just about learning to lipread, it is a full rehabilitation service. We feel very strongly that lipreading is a big part of the rehabilitative process for people with a hearing loss and that it needs to be a far bigger part of this document. We could only find

2 specific mentions of lipreading within the document and on both occasions they were at the end of a list of other agencies.

We trust our comments will be taken into account.

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SCTTL Administrator