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Dear Colleagues,

Hearing loss continues to be a growing challenge across the world with over 360 million people affected by it (WHO, February 2017). The implications for hearing loss are widespread, and affect not only how we age but our overall wellbeing, the impact of which is often underestimated. The scale of the challenge requires concerted effort and action from across the system and a wide range of stakeholders within the public, private, professional and voluntary sectors.

I am delighted that true partnership and ongoing commitment by our stakeholder organisations within the hearing loss community continues and that we have worked together again this year to deliver more of the recommendations in the Action Plan on Hearing Loss.

Working in conjunction with the Department of Work and Pensions, the Department for Education and hearing loss charities, **I am pleased to announce that a series of “What Works” guides are now available.** The guides provide practical examples of what we know works in tackling hearing loss across the life course. The aim is to advise organisations, commissioners and providers on how best they can ensure individuals with hearing loss receive the support they need throughout the system, so that they can lead successful, fulfilling and independent lives.

By ensuring early intervention and more appropriate services through working with people with hearing loss in a person centred way system colleagues from government, health and social care can ensure people live well with hearing loss and the system deploys resources in the most effective way. The guides will help ensure that in these key areas the system will be able to join up more around people to support them live their lives to full whether this be in through appropriate education, support in training and employment or ensuring that they are able to maintain independence and health in older age.

What Works: Hearing Loss and the Transition to Adulthood. This guide has been produced in partnership by NHS England and the Department for Education and is specifically aimed at organisations that have a role in working with young people with hearing loss through the transition to adulthood, to ensure they receive the right level of provision and support to achieve their ambitions and goals.

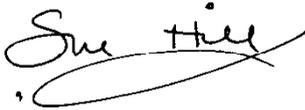
What Works: Hearing Loss and Employment. This guide has been produced in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions and is specifically aimed at employers to help them support people with hearing loss so that they can work well and contribute their best in the workplace.

What Works: Hearing Loss and Healthy Ageing. This guide is specifically aimed at commissioners and medical and social care providers working with older people with hearing loss to support them in maintaining health, wellbeing and independence.

We are very grateful to all those who have given so much of their time to produce this series of guides, in particular Action on Hearing Loss, The Ear Foundation, the National Deaf Children's Society, the Hearing Loss and Deafness Alliance and the Working Group on Living Well with Hearing Loss.

I look forward to continued partnership working with you all in the future to deliver our commitment to the Action Plan on Hearing Loss.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline.

Professor Sue Hill OBE PhD DSc CBIol FRSB Hon FRCP Hon FRCPath
Chief Scientific Officer