

TechAbility Conference 2019

Raising Standards

Rowton Hotel, Alcester Street,
Birmingham, B12 0PJ
Thursday 21 November 2019



Agenda

10:00 – 10:30	Arrival and registration Refreshments and opportunity to visit the exhibition
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome and introduction to the TechAbility Standards Fil McIntyre and Neil Beck, Assistive Technologists, TechAbility
10:45 – 11:45	Keynote Session – Keynote speakers' detailed profiles are featured below. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Raising Standards: Enhancing AAC Decision Making - Professor Janice Murray, Manchester Metropolitan University2. Raising Standards: Why Does It Matter Now? - Sal Cooke OBE3. Raising Standards: Outcomes-Focused Policy - Robert McLaren, Policy Connect
11:45 – 12:15	Refreshment break. Please take this opportunity to visit the exhibition
12:20 – 13:00	Break-out session – Choose from the sessions below <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. TechAbility Standards; what are they and how can they benefit your organisation? – Neil Beck, TechAbility and National Star College2. AT Solutions for People with Visual Impairment – Anna Janickyj, RNIB College3. Making Coding Accessible for People with Physical Impairments - Bharat Paudyal, Birmingham City University
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch is provided in the main room. Also there is opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View the exhibition, get hands on with the products on display• See how the JACO Robotic Arm can be used in a college setting• View a showcase of TechAbility's Webinars; suggest future subjects
13:30 – 14:00	Karten Network Meeting Please note: This session is exclusively for Karten Network members.
14:00 – 14:40	Break-out session – Choose from the sessions below <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication Aids; presentation of a research project – Janice Murray, Manchester Metropolitan University2. Opportunities for Professional Development in Assistive Technology – Paul Doyle, Hereward College & Holly Hartley, Seashell Trust3. Implementing Assistive Technology: What can Specialist Colleges and General FE Colleges learn from each other? – Rohan Slaughter, JISC
14:45– 15:25	Break-out session – Choose from the sessions below <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What Use is 3D Printing? – Simon Barnett, National Star College2. Demystifying Switching – Hannah Golding, Treloar College3. AAC and GDPR; what should organisations be doing? – Fil McIntyre, TechAbility and Beaumont College
15:30 – 16:00	Panel discussion – How can standards in Assistive Technology practice be raised so potential can be fulfilled? Make your voice heard! This is your opportunity to question our keynote speakers and let them know your thoughts. Our panel members are influential in the sector and this is your chance to make your opinions heard. All feedback on Vevox and a transcript of the recording will be made available to panel members and delegates.
16:00 – 16:10	Review of the day and close

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Keynote Speaker and Panel Member Profiles



Janice Murray, Professor of Communication Disability (AAC), Manchester Metropolitan University

Janice Murray is a Speech/Language Therapist and Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University, specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She is the author of numerous academic papers and articles in the field of AAC. From 2016-2019 Janice was the Chief Investigator on the NIHR funded research project *'Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication Aids for Children who are non-speaking: enhancing clinical decision making'*.

From 2009 to 2012 Janice Murray was the Chair of the UK charity Communication Matters and from 2014-2016 was Chair of Council for the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). Since 2012 she has been on the Research Committee for ISAAC. She is currently a member of the AAC committee for the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics. In 2016 Janice became a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists for her translational research in AAC.



Sal Cooke OBE, Karten Network Director, British Assistive Technology Association Council Member

Sal Cooke was until recently Director of JISC TechDis. Having worked in the transport industry for a time, Sal returned to teach in Schools, Colleges of Further Education and the University Sector in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Sal was seconded to various national agencies including the then Department for Education and Skills, working on the e-learning programmes and the Harnessing Technology Strategy. Currently Sal is personally particularly interested and involved with the work of the Independent Specialist Colleges sector.



Robert McLaren, Head of Industry Technology and Innovation, Policy Connect

Robert manages the strategic direction of the Industry Technology and Innovation team. Before joining Policy Connect, he worked within the assistive technology sector providing technology training and study skills tuition to disabled people in universities and the workplace, and consultancy services for organisations in that sector. Robert is dyslexic and was first introduced to assistive technology when he received a Disabled Student's Allowance while reading for his BA (Hons) degree in Philosophy. He also holds a PGC in Teaching Adults with Specific Learning Difficulties.