

National Association for Hospital Education Annual Report 2024-2025



11th November 2025

Introduction

The National Association for Hospital Education is an organisation that supports professionals working in hospital education. This could be within a hospital school, medical PRU, CAMHS inpatient unit or as part of an outreach service such as home tuition. In fact, anyone who works with children and young people who are unable to attend school due to physical and / or mental health difficulties.

As a growing organisation, we will continue to listen carefully to our members and evolve to meet their needs going forward so we really value any feedback or ideas.

Company Information

NAHE was incorporated under the Companies Act 2006, as a private company limited by guarantee on 17th May 2019. The incorporation document and articles of association are available to view on the NAHE website.

Company number	12001886
Registered address	NAHE, c/o Willow Bank School, Simmins Crescent, Leicester, LE2 9AH
Finance officer	Caroline Woods (admin@nahe.org.uk)
Website	www.nahe.org.uk
X	@NAHEUK

Our directors

The roles of chair and vice-chair are reviewed on an annual basis at the AGM. Current directors in these positions are:

Chair Cath Kitchen Vice-Chairs Steve Deadman, Jayne Franklin

Name	Role	Institution
Cath Kitchen	Consultant	Independent education consultant
Cathy Heels	Lead Teacher	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Middlesex
Gwyneth Stephen	Head Teacher	Medical Needs Teaching Service, Leeds
Helen Casson	Executive Principal	Wave MAT
James Gibson	Executive Head Teacher	The Kingfisher Academy (Sheffield)
James Shryane	Head Teacher	Hospital and Outreach Education
Jayne Franklin	Consultant	Previous HT of The Children's Hospital School at Great Ormond Street & UCH, London
Karen Ingham	Head Teacher	Cloughside College

Lyndsey Watson	Head Teacher	The Vireo Academy
Stephen Deadman	Executive Head Teacher	The Children's Hospital School, Leicester
Steve Lowe	Consultant	Previous HT of Oxfordshire Hospital School
Tara Bell	Head Teacher	Wandsworth Hospital and Home Teaching Service

Janet Doherty and Bev Williamson have retired from the board. We extend our thanks to them for their support for the organisation whilst they have been directors.

3 new directors have been appointed under Section 16.3.2 of the NAHE constitution (appointment by resolution of the board) and they are:

Joanna Beswick	Headteacher	Manchester Children's Hospital School
Maarten Crommelin	CEO & Headteacher	CEO of The Goldfinch Trust HT of Maudsley and Bethlem Hospital School
Janine Zablocki	Associate Assistant Principal	Birmingham Children's Hospital (Queen Elizabeth, Heartlands, Good Hope and Royal Orthopaedic) all part of James Brindley Academy

The directors are supported by admin and finance support - Caroline Woods. Our sincere thanks go to her for her excellent contribution to the smooth running of the organisation.

My heartfelt thanks also go to all of the directors for their support, attending meetings and events, and giving up their time as unpaid volunteers to support the organisation.

Membership

There are two classes of membership, individual and organisational, and details on how to join and what the benefits of membership are, can be found on the website.

Individual members include:

- A teacher, education support staff and business staff who are working at or connected to a hospital education provider
- An officer from a local authority providing the relevant statutory function for children with medical needs
- Any other professional who does not fall within either of the above categories but works in the provision of education to children in a similar organisation to a hospital education provider

Organisational members include:

- Hospital schools
- Medical PRUs
- CAMHS inpatient units
- Outreach, home tuition and community teaching services
- Other organisations responsible for providing education to children and young people with medical needs
- Any other organisation who does not fall within the above categories but works in the provision of education to children with medical needs e.g. online providers

Membership is renewed annually at the start of each academic year (September). Current annual membership costs are as follows:

Membership type	Annual cost
Individual	£60
Organisation (fewer than 10 staff)	£60
Organisation (between 10 and 30 staff)	£120
Organisation (more than 30 staff)	£180

We are proposed to increase our membership fees as these have been static for the last 3 years to:

Costs from Sept 2026

Membership type	Annual cost
Individual	£60
Organisation (fewer than 10 staff)	£80
Organisation (between 10 and 30 staff)	£180
Organisation (more than 30 staff)	£240

Finance

Our accounts have been audited and submitted and filed at Companies House by our auditors MLG Accountancy. Main expenditures last year were our public liability insurance, cost of propping up conferences, cost of affiliation to the journal Continuity in Education.

You can find a copy of the accounts [here](#)

NAHE representation

One of our aims is to raise awareness and influence policy at a national level. Members represent the NAHE at a number of local and National groups, some of which are detailed below. Membership:

- Health Conditions in Schools Alliance – Steve Lowe (Previously Oxfordshire), Cath Kitchen
- National SEND Forum – Stephen Deadman (Leicester) - will be Helen Casson next year
- Challenge Partners Education Advisory group – Stephen Deadman (Leicester) - replacement tbc
- DFE AP stakeholder reference group – Cath Kitchen
- DFE Hospital Education funding group – Cath Kitchen, Jayne Franklin, Stephen Deadman, Maarten Crommelin, James Gibson
- APPG for alternative provision - Cath Kitchen
- Ofsted AP stakeholders' group - Cath Kitchen
- AP research network - Cath Kitchen
- Ofqual & JCQ– Cath Kitchen
- HOPE - Tara Bell
- PAN London - Tara Bell
- Ethical Leadership consortium - Cath Kitchen

Through our representation on these national bodies and forums, we aim to bring the voice of the staff and pupils from our sector to any national discussions and decision-making bodies to ensure that we are not 'the forgotten sector'.

Working with the DfE to influence policy

Following the general election and new ministers in post, alongside the announcement of the pending white paper for SEND, there has been little engagement with the DfE as they are unable to share any thoughts at this moment. There is no longer an 'AP and SEND directorate', everyone has moved into the school's directorate. There are 2 sub-directorates there, 'Inclusive Schools' and 'Specialist sector'. I have been told that AP spans the two directorates, but it seems we do not fit anywhere in the current thinking. We are concerned that AP and hospital schools are not mentioned anywhere, just the 'Inclusive Schools' agenda. It feels as if the expertise, skills and knowledge from the specialist sector, including special schools, is being ignored. Rest assured, we will continue to ensure our voices are heard.

Member support

The NAHE weekly email updates aim to keep members up to date with the latest news and events from across the regions, along with what we feel would be useful resources. We aim to remember that NAHE is an organisation for ALL members of our staff and try to find information for everyone. These updates also allow individuals to make requests for information from the wider sector.

This year we have continued with the NAHE Peer collaboration project, an evaluation of which was presented at the leadership conference. This continues to be widely valued across the different settings as we acknowledge that learning and collaborating with peers is the best way to undertake school improvement in our unique settings. Thanks to Steve D, James S and Steve L for coordinating this. The visits are already planned for this year.

Throughout the year, the directors respond to many enquiries that are sent via the website or NAHE admin email. These can be from members or other organisations seeking advice, including local authorities. We are also directly involved in collaborating with the Children's Commissioner's Office, Centre for Social Justice, Ofqual, JCQ, Enginuity, Schools Week, TES, The Difference and Youth Sports Trust.

The NAHE website is now fully operational, and the members area will be reissued with passwords for this academic year.

Network groups

The NAHE subject network groups have not all been successful and sustainable due to staffing changes. Those who have continued, **my sincere thanks to all staff who coordinate and run the subject networks, who willingly give up their time.** Networking with like-minded colleagues in similar settings is such a useful source of support, and the feedback we have had following these meetings has been overwhelmingly positive.

In order to make the groups more sustainable and accessible, Gwyneth Stephen is undertaking an audit, and we are hoping for a relaunch at the Medical AP conference in November. Don't be shy - volunteer if you would like to be part of this.

Events and meetings 2024-25

Two leadership conferences, Units United and Working on the Wards days were held along with various webinars and consultation and discussion groups which involved a wide variety of members. Bookings for the current academic year are under way., along with our first ever medical AP conference.

The webinars are not always well attended, and directors have been discussing how we can make them more accessible for more people within the organisation, possibly with more discussion type forums. Watch this space.

If you have any suggestions for topics/speakers, please do get in touch. The organisation is for you, the members!

My sincere thanks go to all staff involved in planning and facilitating these events.

Publications

We have contributed to articles in Schools Week and TES and and 'Supporting learners with medical needs in schools' was published in June of this year, with chapters written by many of NAHE colleagues. This has been well received. We have been invited to produce a primary and secondary handbook on medical needs as part of the 'All About SEND' series this year, along with contributions to a book on Social Justice in AP.

Evaluation of priorities for 2024-2025

You can find the action plan from 2024-25 [here](#). As so many of the priorities have been completed, we have overhauled the plan for this year in light of so many policy changes and trying to make the organisation more sustainable for the future.

Action plan 2025-26

This is the direction of travel we would like to undertake for the organisation this year and this was developed with the directors. You can find a copy of the plan [here](#) and please do provide any comments. Again, this is a plan for us all.

Cath Kitchen