

2023/2024 Activity Summary

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for the APPG for Assistive Technology

January 2023

Event: Commissioning of local ATech services

Chair: Liz Twist MP

Speakers included:

- Shantelle Million-Lawson, Senior Policy Manager for Care Technology and Innovation, NHS Transformation Directorate
- Nikki Roberts, CEO, Surrey Coalition of Disabled People
- Cath Ritchie, Technology and Change Business Relationship Manager for Health and Adult Services, and Mike Rudd, Head of Housing, Technology & Sustainability, North Yorkshire County Council
- Zoë Clarke, Environmental Control Service Lead, and Helen Robinson, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Service Lead, NHS Barnsley

The meeting explored how the Government's vision for digital social care can be put into action by highlighting examples of good practice and innovation that are already taking place across the country, considered the government's progress in implementing the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper.

June 2023

Event: APPGATAT Annual General Meeting

Chair: Paul Maynard MP

To elect officers of the group for the next 12 months and discuss inquiry options

Sharon Hodgson MP, Lord Taylor of Warwick, and Baroness Grey-Thompson were officially elected as new officers of the APPG.

September 2023

Event: Evidence session on Supported Employment

Chair: Paul Maynard MP

Roundtable evidence session for a report on the use of ATech by people accessing Supported Employment – forthcoming Summer 2024

November 2023

Event: ATech Exports and Inward Investment

Chair: Lord Holmes

Speakers included:

- Barney Willis, Deputy Head of Life Sciences at the Department for International Trade
- Clive Gilbert, Senior Research and Policy Manager within the Assistive and Accessible Technology (ATech) Policy Lab at Policy Connect
- Nadine Farris Board Director within DATEurope
- Rick Bell, Senior Vice President of International Education for Texthelp and Chair of the British Assistive Technology Association
- Noel Duffy, CEO of Dolphin Computer Access Ltd and a Board Treasurer of the USA-based Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA).
- Annamarie Hassall MB, CEO of nasen – the National Association for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This meeting explored how policymakers and industry can collaborate to grow exports and inward investment, to further develop the UK's world-leading Assistive and Accessible Technology (ATech) sector. The event takes place upon the publication of the Department for Business and Trade's (DBT) Export Promotion Brochure for ATech.