

The start to 2019 has been a busy one for me getting to grips with how the processes all work within each department that supports DSA customers and starting to visit some Needs Assessment Centres. Thank you to the Assessment Centre Managers for welcoming me at the centres I have visited so far which are Durham University, Pennine Lancashire Assessment Centre, North East Regional Access Centre and Higher York Access Centre. I am in the process of contacting all Assessment Centres for an introduction meeting and look forward to meeting you all in the near future. If you would like me to visit and have not already had contact with me, please feel free to email me on [julie.southern@microlinkpc.com](mailto:julie.southern@microlinkpc.com) or call me on 07759 002110.



In this month's DSA Newsletter I would like to remind everyone of the services offered by Microlink pc, not only do we provide assistive technology training and specialist equipment and software for our students we also provide ergonomic equipment and deaf and hearing impairment solutions. More information has been provided below.

## Deaf & Hearing Solutions

As the UK's leaders of [Assistive Technology](#) provision, Microlink's expertise and knowledge can significantly improve productivity in both the workplace and education for anyone with a disability or health condition.

[Click here](#) to download our brochure and find out about some of our solutions for people with hearing impairment.

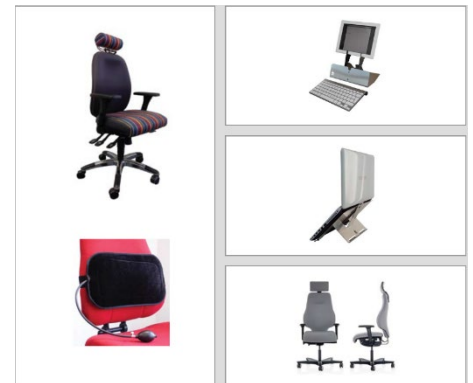


Microlink support individuals through education and workplace using tried and tested solutions relating to varying levels of individual needs. We embrace this technology completely because our hearing impaired staff are using these solutions to enhance their productivity every day. We are an independent one stop shop and end to end solutions provider who can tailor our services to meet your needs. Our extensive product ranges and expertise allow us to get the right solution to the right person regardless of their situation.

## Ergonomic Products

Microlink are able to provide ergonomic assessments for DSA students via our nationwide network of assessors and the service is simple to access for assessors and students alike. Once we receive the contact details for the student via the DSA assessor our team will arrange an onsite assessment and complete a detailed recommendation report. Our extensive experience of carrying out over 300 workplace ergonomic assessments per month has seen the development of this free service for our long standing DSA portfolio.

[You can download our ergonomic product brochure here.](#)



## FocusBand Mental Training

### What Is FocusBand?

The FocusBand is a wearable brain training device with three sensors that are placed on your head to measure your brain activity. The Bioprene headset & the woven sensors are perspiration tolerant and the measured data is displayed on a mobile for effortless brain training to a calmer state of mind.



### How Does It Work?

While wearing the FocusBand, you let your brain convert the audio and visual feedback from the avatar for you. You begin by sitting and experiencing the process and let the brain do its thing. Shortly you'll notice you can easily change your state of mind to your desired state using the audio and visual feedback. This is Neurofeedback – the training of the brain. [Find out more about FocusBand](#)

## DSA Event at the House of Lords

On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January Dr Nasser Siabi OBE, CEO at Microlink pc and Elaine Urquhart, Chief Operating Officer, attended an exclusive event at the House of Lords (Atlee Room). This was for the launch of:

- The **BDA report on the Costs and Benefits** of delivering reasonable adjustments for dyslexic employees, which also showcases the best practices implemented by many organisations and the BDA over the last few years.
- The **8th edition of the BDA's Code of Practice for Employers** which gives clear and practical guidance to employers on reasonable adjustments at all stages of employment.
- A new **Professional Membership Scheme for Workplace Needs Assessors** who work with dyslexic and other neuro diverse individuals.

The meeting was hosted by Lord Addington and as well as other speakers, Margaret Malpas, MBE gave us great insight in the world of coping with Dyslexia in the workplace. The meeting was well attended, and it was extremely informative and well received. There were people from all across the sector and it was interesting to network and hear how people are dealing with the various issues that face them.

The BDA will be launching a LinkedIn Group soon and it will be ideal for people who have an interest in workplace neurodiversity. To find out more please use this link, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/british-dyslexia-association/>