

Communication Aids - Funding

A good place to start when considering your funding options is your local Assessment Service.



Details of how Assessment Services are organised in the UK can be found at the following link on the Communication Matters website, [How Assessment Services are Organised in the UK](#).

Funding for AAC assessments and equipment has changed significantly in England following NHS England recognising a duty to provide assessments and equipment for those individuals with the most complex communication needs (estimated to be 10% of the AAC population). For more information please see read the [Complex Disability Equipment - Communication Aids \(Specialised AAC services\) Service Specification D01/S/b](#). A ring-fenced annual budget of £15 million for the provision of specialised AAC services by the [14 NHS Commissioned AAC Hubs](#) has been agreed until 31/03/17.

It has also been stated that local statutory services should continue to fund adequate local provision to meet the needs of those individuals with less complex needs (estimated to be 90% of the AAC population). For more information regarding local AAC commissioning please read the guidance provided by the ACE Centre. [Local AAC Commissioning Guidance \(March 2015\)' ACE Centre](#).

Click on the name to see details about the service...

Hub region	Service
North West	ACE Centre (North)
North East	Regional Communication Aid Service
Yorkshire and Humber	Barnsley Assistive Technology Service
West Midlands	ACT (Access to Communication and Technology)
East Midlands	Electronic Assistive Technology Service (EATS)
Wessex & Thames Valley	ACE Centre (South)
East of England	East of England
South West	Bristol Communication Aid Service (BCAS)
South West	Dame Hannah Rogers Trust
London	Assistive Communication Service (ACS)
West London	Compass Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology Service
London, (NE and SE)	Guy's and St Thomas' Assistive Communication Service (GSTT ACS)
London	Wolfson Neuro-Disability Team - Communication Service
Sussex and Surrey	Chailey Heritage Clinical Services
Kent and Medway	Kent and Medway Communication and Assistive Technology Service (KM CAT) - Adults
Kent and Medway	Kent and Medway Communication and Assistive Technology Service (KM CAT) - Children & Young People

There are also some very good charities that may be able to assist you with funding AAC equipment.

The Sequal Trust



The Sequal Trust is a registered charity covering the whole of the UK. Our main objective is to provide relief to children and adults who are severely disabled and depend on electronic communication aids and adaptations to alleviate their problems. The Sequal Trust is membership based and open to people of all ages with speech, movement and learning difficulties.

The charity receives no public funding, and relies on donations, legacies, investment income and membership subscriptions for income.

Tel: 01691 624222 / www.thesequaltrust.org.uk

3 Ploughmans Corner, Wharf Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0EJ.

Find a Voice



Find A Voice supports children and adults who have a severe speech, language or communication difficulty, and who may require some form of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) support. This can include signing, symbols or a communication aid. Support is provided in person, by telephone and via their website.

Tel: 01233 640443 / www.findavoice.org.uk

49 Beaver Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5NU

Aidis Trust



The Aidis Trust is a charity that provides free and impartial advice and support on technology to help disabled people across the UK. It is their aim to empower disabled people and those who support them, through knowledge of and support in using assistive technology, to help them communicate and increase their independence by using technology to help reduce isolation. Services are offered free of charge to those who are unable to receive statutory support in the area.

Tel: 0808 800 0009 / www.aidis.org

10 Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2V 8EY

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association



The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning.

They are a membership organisation with nearly 8,000 members forming a powerful national and local network that provides information and support alongside fighting for improved services.

Tel: 01604 250505 / www.mndassociation.org/
PO Box 246, Northampton, NN1 2PR

Dreams Come True Charity



Dreams Come True are a national UK charity that works hard to make dreams come true for children and young people with serious and life-limiting conditions aged between 2 and 21 years old. Fulfilling a dream can help a child or young person to think beyond their illness or disability and focus on something highly positive and empowering. The experience can create amazing memories for entire families and our friendly and knowledgeable team are there to help every step of the way.

Tel: 01730 815000 / www.dctc.org.uk
Knockhundred House, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DQ

Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK



Make-A-Wish started in 1986 and were formed to grant magical wishes to seriously ill children in the UK. Their volunteers spend nearly every weekend out and about across the country. Regional offices are now taking on even more volunteers so that they can keep granting wishes.

Tel: 01276 24127 / www.make-a-wish.org.uk
329-331 London Road Camberley Surrey GU15 3HQ