

Funding Assistive Technology including AAC

The recent document “ **Getting started** : *Communication Aids* ” published by Department of Health is available at www.icesdoh.org .This document details a range of issues for consideration in relation to the provision of AAC at a local level and is intended to be used by commissioners, managers and practitioners in order to provide guidance on the development of appropriate services. Issues covered include:

- Legislation and Policy
- Commissioning and implementing a communication aids service
- Procurement, mounting, accessories, training and support
- Decontamination and re-issue of devices
- Further areas for consideration

The Communication Aids Project (CAP) ended in March 2006. This project aimed to supplement provision available from schools, Local Education Authorities and Health Authorities. It is now the policy of the Department for Education and Skills who funded this project that local agencies will recognise needs and meet them, building on the experience of CAP.

The ACE Centre-North aims to establish Service Level Agreements with Local Authorities / Children’s Trusts in order to ensure that multi-agency teams have access to specialist services to assist the development of AAC and Assistive Technology services at a local level. Typically these specialist services include:

- Access to our loan bank with a wide range of specialist equipment, including high tech communication devices, access devices, mounting and positioning equipment, switches and portable writing devices.
- Training, including technical and bespoke training, Centre courses, accredited modules and Network Day places.
- Assessment support service to clarify the needs of individuals who require AAC and/or Assistive Technology , identification of potential resources and strategies, and assistance with the establishment and development of a local multi-agency assessment team

For further information please contact Anna Reeves or Kristina Atkins:

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Charitable sources for Funding

There are many charities that may be able to assist you financially towards the cost of Assistive Technology including AAC. Below is a list of just some of these organisations. There are many more Charities able to help so it is worth searching locally. Most charities would require a referral from your Speech and Language Therapist, a Doctor or Social Worker in order to consider any application made to them.

The Sequal Trust

Providing Communication Equipment for people with disabilities ranging from Cerebral Palsy to Learning Difficulties

3 Ploughman's Corner, Wharf Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0EJ.

Tel: 01691 624222

Website: www.the-sequal-trust.org.uk

Aidis Trust

Providing Communication Equipment for people with severe disabilities

First Floor, 54 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LT

Tel: 0207 426 2130

Fax: 0207 7374 4794

Website: www.aidis.org

Family Welfare Association

Providing Domestic Items for poorer families

Grants Service, 501-505 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU

Tel: 020 7254 6251

Fax: 020 7249 5443

Website: www.fwa.org.uk

Finding a Voice

Providing Communication Aids through a Loan Library

49 Beaver Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5NU

Tel/Fax: 01233 64044349

Website: www.findavoice.org.uk

Speakeasier

Providing Equipment and Communication Aids for people with Motor Neurone Disease through a Loan Library

PO Box 410, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL52 9GH

Tel: 01204 705681

Website: www.mndassociation.org



Charitable sources for Funding (cont'd.)

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association

Providing Equipment and Communication Aids for people with Motor Neurone Disease through a Loan Library

PO Box 246, Northampton, NN1 2PR

Tel: 01604 250505

Fax: 01604 638289/624726

BEN (Benevolent Fund)

Providing residential, Nursing and Day Care for Motor Industry employees past and present + dependants

Lynwood, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire, SI5 0AJ

Tel: 01344 620191

Fax: 01344 622042

Website: www.ben.org.uk

Cerebra Grants Scheme

Cerebra principality Buildings, 13 Guildhall Square, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, Wales, SA31 1PR

Tel: 01267 244200

Fax: 01267 244201

Freephone: 0800 32 81 159

Website: www.cerebra.org.uk

The Family Fund

Unit 4, Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, Huntington, York, YO32 9WN

Tel: 0845 130 4542

Website: www.familyfund.org.uk

Finding additional sources of funding

Reference books

Have a look in your local library for the following publications for further funding opportunities:

- **A Guide to Grants for Individual Needs**
Published by the Directory of Social Change,
24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP.
Issued every 2 years
- **The Education Grants Directory**
This is a comprehensive book on all aspects of funding for education, giving lists of national and local contacts
- **Local Areas Grants Guide**
- **Charities Digest**
A Comprehensive guide to benevolent funds and disabled associations.
Produced annually by Family Welfare Association and published by Waterflow Information Services
- **The Voluntary Agencies Directories**
- **IPW Charities Directory**
- **The Grants Register**