

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/514  
**From:** Other  
**Date:** 10 December 2024  
**Subject:** Non-specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication for patients

**Q1** A copy of your pathway for assessment and provision of non- specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), this includes tablet based devices, text to speech devices and apps but not equipment provided by the specialist hubs (eg eyegaze)

**A1** Information not held - no documented pathway in place

**Q2** The number of patients (adult and children) assessed for a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

**A2** Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist children's hospital and does not provide services for adults.

**Q3** The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

**A3** Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist children's hospital and does not provide services for adults.

**Q4** Your budget for 2023 and 2023 for the provision of non-specialist communication aids eg boogie boards, lightwrighters, tablets and apps that require direct access NOT eyegaze

**A4** Information not held - No budget in place for non-specialist communication aids. There has been funding in place for a loan service through Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Place.

**Q5** If provision of non-specialist communication aids is on a loan basis, then how long is this for eg 3 months, or as long as required

**A5** The loan service is through the Communication Aids and Alternative Technology (CAAT) team (LCC / Liverpool Place) which is currently paused. A new service specification is being devised.

**Q6** If you do not have a budget for providing non-specialist communication aid devices (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids) how should a local, community or acute based speech and language therapist working for

your organisation make available assessment and provision of these devices for adults (18 or over) living with speech difficulties?

- A6 Information not held - Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist children's hospital and does not provide services for adults. However, if open to the community paediatric service (0-19 years) then we have some devices to use to assess the requirements. Alternatively, a referral to the ACE Centre is needed.
- Q7 The number of patients supported with a non-specialist communication aid via an individual funding requests.
- A7 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.