



Services to Children and Young People (up to 19 years) needing AAC (Augmentative & Alternative Communication)





The slides below provide an overview to clinical staff, local authorities, parent & carer groups, third sector and voluntary organisations, schools, nurseries and parent & carers of current support, signposting, services and treatment available to children and young people (CYP) up to 19 years needing AAC across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (SCHT) Children's Speech & Language Therapy Team (SLT)

The information has been grouped together using the iThrive model, to help provide a clear detail depending on the level of support or treatment the child or young person may need to access.





GETTING ADVICE:

Universal: Signposting, self-management, one off contact or ongoing support



Children and Young People across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin up to 19 years who may need AAC:

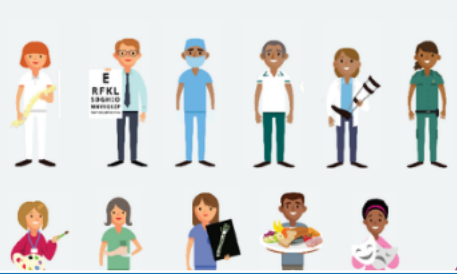
RCSLT Inclusive communication overview www.rcslt.org - [Inclusive communication overview](#) | [RCSLT Inclusive communication](#) is relevant to everyone and to all forms of communication and should be adopted at individual, organisation and population level. By using inclusive communication SLT's can help to reduce inequality and social isolation and make sure services meet human rights, legal, policy and requirements. This is promoted across settings to support communication across a child/young persons day

- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust - Children's SLT website www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/chslt-language-communication-needs Universal advice for AAC [Speech, language, communication needs](#)
- Ace Centre, Oldham www.acecentre.org.uk charity providing AAC assessment, training and information services across England
- Makaton www.makaton.org a language programme using signs and symbols to support understanding, communication and literacy
- Call Scotland www.callscotland.org.uk information available about additional needs support and how to do this

ACT Birmingham – Rehabilitation Services - Access to Communication and Technology

www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/act [Access to Communication and Technology](#) | Website

Strict criteria based for decision making via a SLT referral - advice/referral possible for SLT's for Children/young people with complex AAC needs



GETTING HELP:

Targeted Support: Goal focused, evidence-based and outcome focused interventions



Children and Young People in Shropshire County up to 19 years who need further support for AAC:

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (SCHT)

Children's SLT website www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/chslt-language-communication-needs

Universal advice for AAC [Speech, language, communication needs](#)

SCHT advice line 01743 450800 option 4 if not already on a caseload an open referral or a new referral is required

Makaton Taster training for parent/carers and staff supporting communication needs of specific children/young people with communication needs available via out training offer introduces Makaton signs and symbols

- Advice available to parent/carers and settings at different stages of contact with SCHT Children's speech & Language Therapy department.
- This could involve paper AAC including using objects, photos, symbols, communication boards or communication books, powered AAC.
- Assessment via a referral to the SCHT Children's SLT team for powered AAC that provide a voice output.

If photos are needed those from the parent/carer or settings would be suitable if relevant for the child/young person and easy to see

Other sources of photos for food, toys, places can be found on the internet by searching google images UK safely

If colour picture symbols are required Widgit symbols can help www.widgit.com

If black and white symbols are required Makaton symbols could help www.makaton.org

iPad related communication apps may include Grid for iPad from www.thinksmartbox.com , Proloquo2Go from www.assistiveware.com



GETTING MORE HELP: Specialist Support/Extensive treatment



Specialist Therapeutic SLT Services to Children and Young People up to 19 years needing AAC:

Following discussion and/or assessment paper AAC is needed:

- Advice can be given with support to start off the use of paper AAC from SCHAT Children's SLT team as needed/requested
- The setting up, training and coaching in use of the paper AAC is available
- Charities such as www.makaton.org, www.acecentre.org.uk, www.widgit.com have free paper resources

Following discussion and/or assessment powered AAC is needed:

- SCHAT with Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin have a jointly funded AAC budget for some powered AAC
- Alternative funding streams may be accessed by SLT's from ACT Birmingham or from charities for powered AAC
- The setting up, training and coaching in use of the powered AAC is available

SCHAT Children's SLT team have training videos available on request to introduce AAC and being a communication partner.

Ongoing modelling without expectation of any AAC systems by communication partners is key with AAC

AAC provided to a child/young person is gifted to them once they leave our service.



GETTING RISK SUPPORT: Acute: Risk management and crisis support

Acute: Risk Management and Crisis support

Repair and replacement if needed for paper or powered AAC is available provided by SCHAT Children's SLT team for children and young people in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

Contact SCHAT Children's SLT team on 01743 450800 option 4 if urgent support is required for urgent advice/assessment for a child or young person needing support from an AAC system.

