

Signposting Adult patients for help with purchase of AAC equipment – when they do not meet the AAC Hub criteria.

The KM CAT service is able to fund and provide communication devices for patients who meet the NHSE referral criteria to an AAC hub. However, if your patient does not meet these criteria and they need an AAC device then you can use this guidance below.

1. **East Kent and Swale** – if your patient is registered with a GP in East Kent or Swale please contact the KM CAT service for advice as there may be additional funding available
2. **If you are not working in East Kent or Swale** – give the patient or their carer the list of organisations who may provide financial assistance.
3. **Some applications for funding require written evidence from the KM CAT service or from the local SLT to support the application.** In this instance please support the patient's application or direct them to KM CAT as appropriate.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS AND NEED SUPPORT PLEASE EMAIL THE KM CAT SERVICE FOR ADVICE. Email: **acat.service@nhs.net**

If you are aware of other organisations in Kent or Medway that offer help in funding communication devices, please do let us know at KM CAT.

KM CAT website: <http://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/services/radiological-sciences/medical-physics/kmcat/>

Information for Patients and Carers

Organisations that may be able to help Adults with communication needs to obtain funding for an AAC device

The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA):

Website: www.mndassociation.org

“If statutory support has been explored but is not available, the MND Association may be able to offer financial assistance through our **MND Support Grant scheme**”

“If you need help in understanding the grants, need help in applying or have any questions please contact us on 01604 611802.” You can also email support.services@mndassociation.org.

Association for Rehabilitation of Communication and Oral Skills (ARCOS):

www.arcos.org.uk

ARCOS is a UK national charity, working to improve life for children and adults who have communication, eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties

“ARCOS maintains an equipment library which provides a unique service for assessment and practise in using alternative technologies. The library makes the latest ‘high tech’ equipment available for free trial and rental, enabling clients to fully explore the capability and suitability of equipment before purchasing.

Resources include devices for alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) and alternative input devices for computers for those unable to use conventional keyboards and mice.”

Independence at home:

www.independenceathome.org.uk

“We may be able to help you if you, or a member of your family, have a long term disability and need financial help towards the cost of equipment.”

Jankie Saye Foundation:

www.jankisaye.org

“We will consider grant applications from anyone who is unable to meet the costs of assistive technologies. The time it takes for us to provide you with the grant will depend on whether existing funds are available or whether we have to launch a campaign to raise the funds you need.”

The Sequal Trust:

www.thesequaltrust.org.uk

“The Sequal Trust aims to bridge the communication gap by supplying specialist communication equipment for Disabled people of all ages across the UK”.

Find a Voice:

www.findavoice.org.uk

“Find a Voice is a Kent based registered charity which helps and supports people of all ages with speech, language and communication difficulties throughout Kent, Medway and beyond. Find A Voice provides a loan of communication equipment free of charge.. We loan our equipment out for a six week trial as usually this is long enough to see how well a piece of equipment works.

Access to Work:

www.gov.uk/access-to-work

Access to Work is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work. It can provide practical and financial support if you have a disability or long term physical or mental health condition. It can pay for communication equipment needed to help you stay in work.

Kent County Council – link to external funding streams

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding>

The link takes you to the overview page. **Inside Track** contains information on grants wider than KCC. For example, the ACT Foundation:

ACT Foundation

ACT provides small grants of up to £2,500 to individuals with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for people in need. Examples of grants: include communication aids and specialised software.

For more information: <http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk/>