

Specialist Disability Service

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Service



Part of Oxford Centre for Enablement (OCE), Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Specialist Disability Service

Oxford Centre for Enablement
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
Windmill Road
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Tel: **01865 227 447 / 737 445**

www.ouh.nhs.uk/oce/services/specialist-disability-service.aspx

The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Service provides assessment and advice about communication aids.

We accept referrals for assessment for high-tech communication aids, but also consider low-tech strategies.

Introducing any AAC system usually involves a lot of support. We expect that most of this support will be provided by local services, with advice from the AAC Service.

Our services

We provide two services for adults with acquired communication difficulties.

- A local service for Oxfordshire residents
- A regional service for the Thames Valley and Wessex region via the ACE Centre

We carry out an assessment to discuss communication needs, and identify and try potential AAC strategies and equipment. The service for Oxfordshire residents also includes information and advice about voice banking and message banking.

This may take place at Oxford Centre for Enablement, at the client's home, or another appropriate location. We invite local staff to the assessment.

Following the assessment, if a high-tech system may be appropriate, we will arrange a trial loan. See below for details of provision of equipment that is recommended following assessment

We also offer training and telephone advice.

Our team

- Speech and Language Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapy Assistant
- Therapy Technician
- Occupational Therapist
- Clinical Scientist
- Rehabilitation Engineers

Referrals

Referrals should come from Speech and Language Therapists, but we will sometimes accept referrals from other sources on a 'case by case' basis

For referral forms for Oxfordshire residents please visit:

www.ouh.nhs.uk/oce/referrals/specialist-disability-services.aspx

For details of eligibility criteria and how to refer to the specialised AAC Service for the Thames Valley and Wessex region, please visit the ACE Centre website:

<https://acecentre.org.uk/services/assessment/nhs-referral>

Costs

The cost of this service is met if the client's local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has a service level agreement with Oxford University Hospitals or the ACE Centre.

Equipment recommended for adults in Oxfordshire can be provided on long-term loan, however, funding cannot be guaranteed, and may sometimes need to be sought separately.

Equipment recommended through assessment by the regional Specialised AAC Service is provided on long-term loan by NHS England.

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

AAC Service
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