



KEYCOMM NEWS

AAC in Education Training Module

A **new** online education module focussing on implementing AAC within an education environment has now been launched. It has been written for staff and students working in education and addresses how to introduce and support the use of AAC in educational settings. The module consists of 7 chapters including setting the scene, communication friendly schools, augmentative communication in practice, education frameworks, supporting teaching and learning, working together and communication for life. Each chapter has videos and practical examples of resources to support you in implementing AAC within the school. The module is set up so you can pick and choose the topics you want to learn more about. This training module is a must for any professional wanting to implement AAC within their school setting. If you look carefully, you might even see some familiar faces. The module is available on the AAC Scotland website - www.aacscotland.org.uk

In This Edition

- AAC in Education Module
- Scottish Government
- AAC Pathway
- I-asc project
- For Your Information
- Courses
- Contacts

Scottish Government News

The Assistive Communications Team are currently working on two areas: data gathering and equipment and procurement. They have convened a Short life working group looking at procurement of AAC equipment across Scotland. They are also looking at how we gather data about AAC provision and use. The team are also looking at identifying other areas to add to their work plan for the coming year. These may include learning and teaching, engagement and partnership working and AAC Awareness. The team will also be putting together a report on the impact of the legislation one year on.

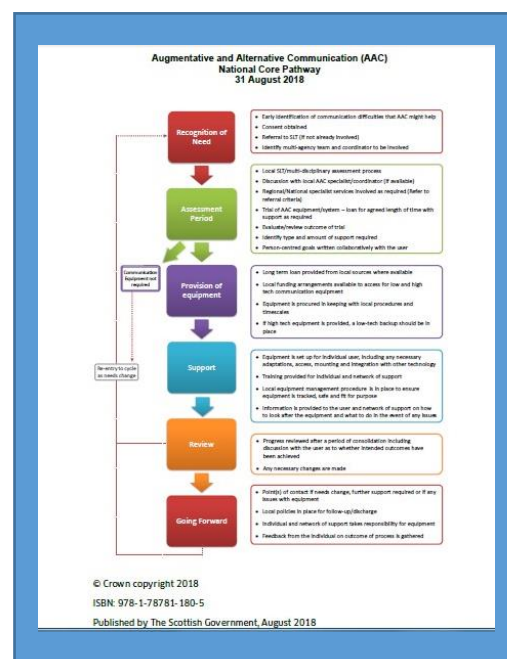
New National Core Pathway for AAC

The Assistive Communication Team at the Scottish Government has launched a National Core Pathway for AAC for Scotland. The pathway is intended as a reference guide for services which provide and support communication aids across all age groups. The pathway outlines the core elements that an individual who uses an AAC system should expect and allows some flexibility for adapting to local policies and procedures. With the launch of this pathway, we are on our way to making sure that there is equitable provision of communication equipment and support across Scotland. This handout is ideal to give out to teaching staff, parents, carers and other professionals working with children and adults who use AAC.

The pathway can be downloaded from the Scottish Government website at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-augmentative-alternative-communication-aac-core-pathway/>

Keycomm also has some printed copies which we can send out to you. Contact Debbie at Keycomm 0131 311 7130 or email deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk



I-ASC Project Summary

The Manchester Metropolitan University Speech and Language Therapy Department has launched their results on their project looking at Clinical Decision Making by professionals when assessing for a communication aid. The aim of the project is to improve the consistency and quality of decision making for children who require a symbol based communication aid system.

The key results at this stage are:

There are different decision priorities across the team around a child

There is little involvement of parent and child in the decision making process

Decision making process not made explicit

Competing demands of national guidance and local implementation

Legislation and policy considerations

For more information check out their website: www.i-asc.org.uk



Four Your Information

Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland Annual Study Day

5 March 2019 at Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

The Study Day will be packed with plenary sessions and workshops on supporting and implementing AAC with both children and adults. More information to follow. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Follow us on Social Media

Keycomm is now on Twitter @keycommaac

Facebook at www.facebook.com/keycommaac



Upcoming Event!!

Communication Matters is sponsoring a study day on AAC and Literacy: Best Practice on Thursday 2 May 2019 at Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline. The Study Day will address the needs of children in both special and mainstream schools and is suitable for both professionals and family members. More details to be found at www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/study-days

Interested in improving your own skills and competencies in AAC? Check out the **IPAACKS** self-assessment framework at www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

Keycomm have a number of copies to give away.

First come, First serve.

Contact Keycomm at deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from
all of us at Keycomm!**



Courses at Keycomm

Don't miss out on the courses we are running at Keycomm! Booking forms are available to download from our website www.keycomm.ac.wordpress.com. Just email your completed booking form to Janet at Janet.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk to book your place.

24 January 2019	10.00 – 12.00 pm	Boardmaker 6 for PC
31 January 2019	10.00 – 12.00 pm	Introduction to CODES Framework
21 February 2019	3.30 – 5.30 pm	Supporting Parents using AAC in the home
7 March 2019	10.00 – 12.00 pm	Boardmaker 6 for PC

Contacting the Keycomm Team

Office Hours:	9am-5pm, Monday- Thursday, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Fridays (pick up and collection only)
Address:	Keycomm Resource Centre, 1c Pennywell Road, Edinburgh, EH4 4PH
Tel:	0131 311 7130
Website:	www.keycomm.weebly.com

Deborah Jans

Keycomm Coordinator, Speech and Language Therapist

Available Mon-Thursday

deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk or deborah.jans@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Melanie Ross

Occupational Therapist - SPLAT Toy Library

Available Mon & Tues 9.30am-2.30pm

melanie.ross@kaimes.edin.sch.uk

Barbara Mathieson

Speech Therapy Assistant

Available Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

barbara.mathieson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Janet Ramsay

Clerical Assistant

Available Mon - Thurs 9.00am-3.00pm,

janet.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk

Susan Henderson

Communication Technology Development Officer

Available Mon, Wed and Thur

Susan.henderson@ea.edin.sch.uk

Annie Welsh

Speech & Language Therapy Support

Tues pm and Thurs am

Anne.Welsh@Oaklands.edin.sch.uk

Anne Moar

Speech & Language Therapy Technical Instructor

Wednesday all day

Anne.moar@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk