



Barnsley Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Barnsley Assistive Technology Team

A specialised service that can help with technology for communication and control



A Guide for Service Users



What Assistive Technology (AT) Does The Team Work With?

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

AAC aims to assist people who have difficulty speaking to communicate effectively, by supporting or replacing spoken communication. AAC includes Voice Output Communication Aids, electronic devices that produce a computer generated voice based on what the user enters.



Environmental Control (EC)

EC systems enable independence by giving people control of their home environment. EC systems can aid people who have problems accessing things like computers, TVs, phones, doors and in calling for attention.



Access

Access methods are the ways in which people control equipment using any repeatable, reliable movement.

Access to electronic assistive technology is key and can be very specific if a person has limited mobility or complex physical difficulties. Access methods can include customised or specialist switches, joysticks, mice or keyboards and can vary from a single switch controlled by a slight movement to cursor movement using eye gaze.



Who Are Barnsley Assistive Technology?

We are a specialised NHS service made up of: Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Clinical Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Assistants.

What Do We Do?

- Barnsley Assistive Technology work alongside local teams and professionals (for example Occupational Therapists and Speech & Language Therapists) in **Yorkshire and Humber** to **assess** a person's AT needs and help to identify the most appropriate solution to enhance their quality of life and independence.
- Where appropriate, we **provide** specialised communication aids and environmental controls. We support and **maintain** the equipment provided.
- We recommend a system for you, and then pass your care back to your local professionals to support you to use this system in your daily life.
- We **advise** those who support people with a potential to use assistive technology.
- We deliver assistive technology **training** and education to local professionals.
- We publish **resources** and information for people who use assistive technology.

Who do we work with?

Barnsley Assistive Technology work with a wide range of individuals with severe disabilities. In general, to be referred to the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team for assessment, a person would meet the following criteria:

- A severe or complex difficulty associated with a range of physical, cognitive, learning or sensory deficits (where a sensory deficit is not the only difficulty).
- Beyond cause-and-effect understanding and beyond pre-verbal communication skills.
- Able to understand the purpose of a communication aid and/or environmental control and motivated to use one.
- Able to learn how to use the equipment.
- Possible experience of low-tech or non-specialised AAC or EC systems which are insufficient to realise potential. (It is very helpful to demonstrate this at referral.)

For AAC specifically:

- Would have a clear discrepancy between level of understanding and ability to speak. *More detailed criteria can be found on our website.*

Who do we provide equipment to?

- Barnsley Assistive Technology provide equipment to people who are assessed as needing specialised, high-tech communication aids and/or environmental controls.
- If your assistive technology assessment indicates that a non-specialised system will meet your needs (direct access, text-based or simple symbol-based AAC; simpler and cheaper non-customised EC), this should be provided by your local team. Local teams should contact Barnsley Assistive Technology if they need advice about this.

What else can we do?

- Barnsley Assistive Technology can integrate multiple control functions into a single means of access if multiple devices are not appropriate. This includes the potential for integrating functions for communication, environmental control, computer access and/ or powered wheelchair control.
 - We can also customise access methods and mounts to facilitate use of the device being provided, for example keyguards, wheelchair mounts.
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What happens during an assessment?

- We try to visit within 6 weeks of receiving your referral.
- We visit you at your home or any community venue that suits you.
- We visit with your local Speech & Language / Occupational Therapist.
- Each of our visits could last 1-2 hours and we may ask to visit you on more than one occasion to get a detailed picture of your needs.
- We work with you and the people who know you to set your goals. We may lend you some equipment to try between visits.

How can you contact us?

- If you would like to discuss our service further, please contact the team using the email address or telephone number below.
- If you would like to be referred to this service, then you must have the involvement of a local NHS or social care professional, for example an Occupational Therapist or Speech and Language Therapist. Please ask a local professional to refer you to our service by completing the form on our website. We are unable to accept self-referrals or referrals from family members.
- If your local professional is unsure whether a referral to our service would be appropriate then they can contact us to discuss before filling in the referral form.

Contact details

Email: barnsley.at@nhs.net

Telephone: 01226 432159

Website: www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/at

Mailing List: <http://eepurl.com/bqoNTX>

Blog: <https://barnsleyat.wordpress.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/barnsleyat>

Training for Professionals: <http://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/services/training-courses/>

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If you require this information in alternative format, please contact the **Patient Advice and Complaints Team on 01226 432330**.

Если Вы хотели бы эту информацию на другом языке или другом формате, типа большой печати, пожалуйста звоните 01226 432330

Jeśli potrzebujesz te informacje w innym języku czy w innej postaci, na przykład dużym drukiem, proszę dzwonić na numer 01226 432330

如果您想索取這些資料的中文譯本或以其他形式編制的版本（如大字體），請 致電01226 432330


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01226 432330 نه گهر چه ده که یت نه م زانیاریه ت
وهک چاپی گهره، تکابه تله فون بکه بو نه م ژماره به

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