Local Services Assistive Technology Resource Pack: Environmental controls

This document aims to suggest physical and online/software resources that local services working with Environmental Control may find appropriate to stock or have access to. The majority of these are items that we would consider come under the remit of local teams and therefore our team are unlikely to provide to clients. We may expect local teams to have trialled these or similar items prior to referring to the Barnsley team and be able to provide feedback on this in their referral.

Our "Local Services Resource Pack" has now been updated and split into four separate guides:

- AAC: A Resource Pack for Local Services
- EC: A Resource Pack for Local Services
- Computer Access: A Resource Pack for Local Services
- Mounting Solutions: A Resource Pack for Local Services

Please visit our website to download a copy of the other Resource Packs in this series:
https://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/resources-and-information/

This document does not cover the wider picture of local EC and AAC service provision – e.g. care pathways or staffing of local teams. Support on commissioning and service delivery of local AAC teams can be found on: https://localaactools.co.uk/ . Other information and documentation can be found on our website on the AAC and EC pages: http://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/

Please note:

This document is not designed to be an exhaustive list and we intend to update this document on a regular basis to ensure products are as up to date as possible, but this cannot be guaranteed, so please contact suppliers and manufacturers for the most up-to-date information.

We do not always have first-hand experience of all these products and some are given just as an indication of what is available. We would expect that local teams would use their own clinical judgement to decide whether products are suitable for individual clients. Other products are of course available and we are happy to discuss other options with you. Please let us know if you feel anything should be added or if any of the information is incorrect.

Some of the items listed in this resource pack are no longer available to buy on the market. They have continued to be included as you may come across these resources in use by individuals or may have access to them within your local services.

Contact us if you want to know more about any of the items described or are struggling to find suppliers.

If you cannot find the appropriate equipment for your client then please ring or email the department and we will be happy to help.

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Barnsley Assistive Technology Team
Web: www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/at/ - Email: Barnsley.AT@nhs.net
Phone: 01226 432159 - Text Faults: 07709718461

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Environmental controls

Environmental Control refers to devices or systems, which enable clients to control their immediate living space (with different methods of access to suit different types of disability).

Environmental Control Systems can enable you to operate everyday domestic appliances and mechanisms by infra-red or radio frequency. Mechanisms that can be operated include door and window openers, electronic curtain rails and blinds. Appliances that can be operated include lamps, televisions, telephones and pagers.

Environmental control systems vary considerably in their capabilities. Some only turn one or two devices on and off and are similar to a remote control, others control a range of settings for several devices and are more complex. Generally, those systems which control a number of different functions would come under the remit of specialised services, unless the local service is confident in implementing these.

Environmental control systems that incorporate the need for adaptations to a property are often fitted in conjunction with our service, but the local Social Services are responsible for the funding and fitting of certain adaptations including door openers, plug sockets etc.

For those clients who do not meet the criteria for a specialised service, there are still a large number of products out there on the market that can help with environmental control. These can range from simple large button remote controls and phones all the way through to more complex 'Smart' home automation systems, controlled via a smart speaker such as an Amazon Echo.

This resource hopes to provide some suggestions for items that may support clients with a certain level of disability. There are however many similar equivalents out there, so please take this in to account when suggesting items for clients.

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Phones

There are a number of options out there to support with phone access ranging from big button mobiles and landline phones for those with difficulties with fine motor control, through to ways to adjust the accessibility options within a mobile itself or using alternative ways to access your phone such as a mouse or switch.

Phone calls and SMS can also be accessed via a computer either via a mobile phone or an online service or from smart speakers such as Amazon Echoes/Google Homes.

Doro Secure 580 Mobile Phone

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Mid
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

An easy to use mobile phone with simplified keypad and loud and clear sound. Stores four speed dial numbers with one touch calling.

Special Features:

Visual ring indicator, hearing aid compatible, speakerphone, adjustable text size, can receive SMS, splash proof, safety features including an assistance button and GPS localisation, easy handling.

Suitable for:

- Individuals with reduced memory, hearing or dexterity.

- Those struggling with a standard mobile phone

Product specification:

- 3G, takes a micro-SIM, 10 hours talk time, 350 hours standby time

Doro Memory Phone Plus

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low to mid
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

Ergonomic telephone handset with large, simple to use high contrast concave keys and low reflective finish, making dialling easy. One touch memory buttons with photo option for pre-stored numbers.

Special Features:

- 4 Speed dial numbers stored under a photo or symbol of your choice.

- Hearing aid compatible, visual ring indicator, loud and clear sound.

Suitable for:

- Individuals with reduced memory, cognitive problems, reduced hearing or dexterity.

Product specification:

- Handset volume amplified by up to 35dB

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BigTel 40 Plus Phone

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low to mid
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

Easy to use, amplified, big button phone with six photo memory buttons, which can be set up to call family/friends etc. at the press of a button. Ideal for users with memory and/or dexterity difficulties.

Special Features:

- High contrast, easy press buttons

- Amplified ringer and sound

- Hearing Aid compatible

- Visual ringer for incoming calls
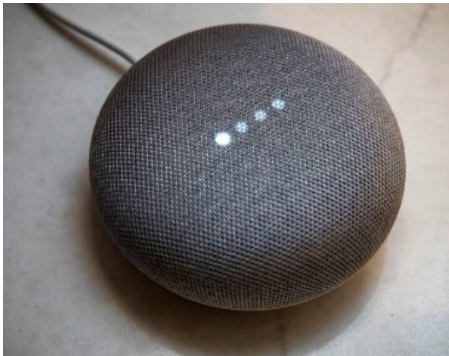
Suitable for:

- Individuals with reduced memory, cognitive problems, reduced hearing or dexterity.

Product specification:

- Does not require additional power socket. Just plugs in to phone line.

Using A Smart Speaker For Phone Calls

Function	Environmental control
Category	Software/ Hardware
Access Method	voice
Operating system	n/a

Physical ability required	Minimal
Cognitive ability required	Good
Ease of learning	Moderate
Support needed	Support required for initial set up

Overview- Smart Speakers

Increasingly people are using smart hubs such as the Amazon Echo or Google Home to make phone calls to mobile and landline numbers. This requires contacts to either be saved on the device/app and then the user is able to say 'Call mum' etc. and the call will be placed or alternatively they say 'call……' and read out a phone number. Alternatively, the individual can search the internet for a phone number and then call this.

Some devices with screens enable video calls such as the Amazon Echo Show and the Facebook Portal. The Portal however only enables you to call contacts with smartphones, tablets or Portals. Some can even access services such as Skype for video calling.

Different devices work in different ways so it is worth checking that a particular device is compatible before purchase.

Suitable for:

- Those with limited physical ability to control a mobile or landline phone

- Those wishing to use voice as an access method to phone control

- Those with clear speech

- Those with a back up method for attention calling/emergency calling etc.

- Users may require their own smartphone with appropriate app for this function to work

***PLEASE NOTE. THESE DEVICES RELY ON WI-FI TO FUNCTION. IF THE WI-FI FAILS, SO DOES THE DEVICE. IN ADDITION, THEY RELY ON CLEAR SPEECH TO WORK AND DO NOT ALWAYS CORRECTLY RECOGNISE A PERSON'S VOICE EVERY TIME THEY SAY SOMETHING. DO BEAR THIS IN MIND IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS THINKING OF RELYING ON THIS FOR ATTENTION CALLING IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. A BACK UP OPTION OR AN ALTERNATIVE E.G. A COMMUNITY ALARM MAY BE A SUITABLE OPTION. ***

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USB On The Go (OTG) Cable For Phone Access

Function	Phone access/ Environmental control	Physical ability required	Mid- but depends on access method e.g. mouse, headmouse, joystick etc.
Category	Hardware	Cognitive ability required	Good to be able to manage use of phone
Access Method	Mouse/ alternative mouse		
		Ease of learning	Easy if good understanding of a smart phone
Operating system	Android and iOS	Support needed	Minimum if good understanding of a smartphone

Overview

Enables connection of an external mouse, keyboard or memory stick with USB to an Android or Apple mobile phone or tablet with USB C, Micro USB or lightening connector (as long as the device supports the OTG function). Most recent phones and tablets (released within the last 2 years) will detect the device and allow use. The user can use any type of mouse or keyboard. A mouse will be able to access all parts of the phone.

Special Features:

- Widely available from Amazon/eBay etc. reasonable cost

- More than one USB device can be attached via a powered USB hub plugged in to the phone

- Users may need to download an extra app to place any actual physical phone buttons on to the screen to be able to access with the mouse (Soft keys) e.g. home and back buttons. (depends on phone type)

Suitable for:

Those who struggle to access the phone/tablet touchscreen due to limited fine motor control, but can manage a mouse or keyboard.

Product specification:

- Some cables advertise that they are suitable for certain phones or tablets, so check compatibility

- Requires Android OS 3.1 or higher and iOS 13 or higher

- Many OTG cables will prevent charging of the phone whilst in use as they use the same socket, but some allow both, so it is worth looking for one of these if a user is wishing to have continuous phone access.

Accessing Your Mobile Phone From Your Computer

Function	Phone access
Category	Software
Access Method	Direct, switch, eye gaze, head mouse
Operating system	Windows, Android

Physical ability required	Varies dependent on computer access method
Cognitive ability required	Good- needs to be able to navigate a computer
Ease of learning	Easy if has good understanding of computer use.
Support needed	Medium- requires download of app or software and connection of phone e.g. via Bluetooth

Overview

A number of apps/software are available that can connect your Android phone to your Windows computer, enabling the user to answer/make phone calls and send/receive SMS via their computer.

- One such app is **Remote Phone Call**, which can be trialled for free from Google Play for 15 days. This requires download of a PC Client called *Call Centre*,: http://www.justremotephone.com/ .
- **Phone Link** comes inbuilt with PCs to allow control over many phones and their apps. Use Phone Link to Sync Your Android or iPhone to Your Windows Computer | Microsoft. With some Samsung phones, Phone link provides full screen control through Windows.
- Other apps include **scrcpy, Airdroid's Airmirror and Vysor.**
- Mac users are also easily able to use their iPhone from their Macs via the facetime app on the Mac and appropriate settings on the phone. Both devices will need to be signed in to the same iCloud account and on the same WIFI.
- Other apps and software that enable you to make internet voice calls, send messages or SMS, sometimes without the need for a mobile phone are **Skype, Facebook Messenger, and Viber.**

Special Features:

- Connects your phone to your computer via Bluetooth, WIFI or USB lead
- May require an app on the phone and a download for the computer
- Enables easy use of a phone by a client with limited upper limb movement as long as they are able to access their computer by any means (eyegaze, headmouse, standard mouse/keyboard etc.)

Suitable for:

Anyone who is struggling to access the touchscreen or buttons of their smartphone, but is able to access a computer or who would find combing the two devices more convenient

Product specification:

- Depends on type of phone and computer
- Some phones or computers come with installed apps to allow connection

Adapted Remote Controls

There are several large button, simplified remote controls on the market to support those with fine motor or cognitive difficulties. These are often a simple and cheap solution for some and are simple to set up and use.

Alternatively, increasingly apps on a smartphone can be used for TV control dependent on phone and TV type.

TV 5 Remote Control

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low to mid
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Moderate to set up initially

Overview

Simple, large button remote control. Enables volume and channel change, turning the TV on and off, changing to source and a mute button.

Special Features:

- 6 programmable buttons

- Can be set up to control up to two different devices

- Easy set up but will require some support with set up from another person

Suitable for:

Those with memory, dexterity or visual difficulties

Product specification:

- Requires x 2 AAA batteries

****ALSO AVAILABLE IN TV10 AND TV15 VERSIONS- BOTH OFFERING FURTHER FUNCTIONALITY BUT STILL OFFERING A SIMPLER REMOTE THAN STANDARD, LARGER, EASIER TO PRESS BUTTONS AND OFFERING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTROLLING TWO DIFFERENT DEVICES E.G. TV UPSTAIRS/TV DOWNSTAIRS ***

Doro Handle Easy Remote Control

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low/Mid level
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Some support for initial set up

Overview

Simple, seven buttoned remote control. Enables power on/off, channel up/down and volume up/down to a TV (could be used with other devices that work by infra red remote control).

Special Features:

- High contrast buttons/design for those with visual difficulties

Suitable for:

Those with memory/cognitive issues or problems with dexterity

Product specification:

- Light indicator flashes when batteries are low

- Requires some support from a family member or carer to set up via the usual remote control

Flipper Remote

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low to medium
Cognitive ability required	Low to medium
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

Remote control for Sky, Virgin and Digital TV. The Dual-Function feature allows you to turn both your television & Freeview/Sky/Virgin boxes on/off using just the Flipper. This removes the need for 2 remote controls & helps reduce confusion.

Special Features:

- Only 6 key buttons; On/Off, Channel up, Channel down, Volume up, Volume down, and mute.

- Favourites Function, save up to 25 channels to the remote control.

- Comes with almost 1000 codes for all major TV and set top box brands; quick set up

- Lock feature; stops accidental reprogramming of control

Suitable for:

Any individual who has a physical and/or cognitive need for a simple way of operating their terrestrial and digital TV.

Product specification:

- Operating Distance: 7m

- Type of Battery: 2 x AAA (included)

Using a Mobile Phone as a Remote Control

Function	Environmental control
Category	Software/ Hardware
Access Method	Direct/ switch/ mouse
Operating system	iOS/ Android

Physical ability required	Good (dependent on access method)
Cognitive ability required	Good
Ease of learning	Easy if good understanding of a smart phone
Support needed	Minimum if good understanding of a smartphone

Overview

Phones with IR Blasters

Some phones have inbuilt IR (infra red) blasters and can work as a remote control with an appropriate app e.g. **Galaxy Universal Remote app:** Or **Anymote:**

These apps have customisable screens, where the number, size and position etc. of buttons can be altered to facilitate access.

Phones without IR blasters

It is now possible to control certain TVs with linked apps e.g. **Samsung smart things** app for Samsung TV control or using an iPhone to control an **Apple TV.**

Usually your phone will need to be on the same WIFI as the TV to work.

Alternatively, you are able to download an app on to your phone to control a specific TV service e.g. Virgin media with '**Virgin TV control'** or 'Roku' with the **Roku mobile app**

Hardware:

There are some systems that use a piece of hardware to link your smartphone and your TV/other devices. These tend to use your home WIFI network or sometimes Bluetooth e.g. **Logitech Harmony Hub, Anymote Home.**

Suitable for:

- Those with limited mobility and/or some limited dexterity that can control a touchscreen/smart phone (could be via alternative methods) and wish to control their TV or other remote-control devices.

- Those with appropriate smartphones/TVs/TV services/devices.

Barnsley Assistive Technology Team
Web: www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/at/ - Email: Barnsley.AT@nhs.net
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One For All Remote-Simple 4

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Medium
Cognitive ability required	Medium
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Moderate to set up remote initially. Minimum ongoing

Overview

An easy to use universal remote that controls up to four different devices including TV, Satellite/Freeview, DVD, Blu-ray player, iPod docking stations, amplifiers etc. all from one remote. This company provides a range of multifunction remotes with the ability to control varying amounts of devices. Similar remotes are available from other companies.

Special Features:

Large buttons, quick set up, shockproof. Can be lighter weight than some standard remotes.

Suitable for:

People with limited mobility- users are able to control a number of devices from one position. Users with some dexterity problems, but reasonable dexterity is still required.

Product specification:

- Takes 2 x AAA batteries

- Support may be needed for set up

Attention Calling / Pagers

There are numerous solutions on the market for attention calling within the home to family or carers. Theses range from basic mainstream baby monitors and wireless doorbells through to more specialist pendant/wrist worn alarms including those with switch access.

Consideration will need to be taken in regards to what movement an individual has to ensure they have the right type of device.

If an individual lives alone, it may be more appropriate to consider a community alarm that would alert a central switchboard or family member. It would also be appropriate to look at phone access in these circumstances to give individuals a back up method for attention calling.

Pagers- Standalone Type

Function	Environmental Controls
Category	hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Medium
Cognitive ability required	Low
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

A number of standalone pager systems are available on the market. They allow an individual to call a carer/family member who is in the same house or garden (check range of device) by pressing a pendant alarm button, which triggers the receiver (carried by the carer). Can be used straight out of the box/easy to set up. The device pictured is the **Lifemax Safety Alert.**

Special Features:

- Works wirelessly

- No ongoing cost

Suitable for:

Individuals that have a carer or family member in the house at all times and who may need to alert them at short notice. This could be an individual with physical or memory/cognitive difficulties. Useful for an individual who may sleep in another room to their carer/family member.

Product specification:

- Uses short range radio signal

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Med Page Pagers (Easy Press)

Function	Environmental Controls
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct or switch
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low
Cognitive ability required	low
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

Medpage do a number of standalone radio pager options including this Big button pager kit https://medpage-ltd.com/wireless-help-call-pendant/help-call-button/BIG-BUTTON-HELP-CALL-TRANSMITTER-SWITCH-WITH-PAGER-MPPL-JSK and another kit with a waterproof easy press pendant alarm.

https://www.medpage-ltd.com/product/product-help-call-pendant-button

Special Features:

- Additional switches and transmitters can be used with a single pager e.g. to have switches set up in different rooms, one for bed/chair etc.

- Waterproof pendant alarm comes with lanyard and wrist strap

- Also available with a soft pillow switch for activation via head movement

- The receiving unit can be set to vibrate, make a noise or both

- Has low battery indicator

Suitable for:

Those with poor dexterity and potentially visual or memory problems that may struggle with a more standard type pager. Those who may be unable to verbally alert a carer who is in the same property or use a standard paging system.

Product specification:

- Takes batteries

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Monitors for Attention Calling

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Handsfree
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	None
Cognitive ability required	minimum
Ease of learning	Very easy/N/A
Support needed	None beyond initial set up

Overview

These monitors (also known as Baby Monitors) can be used if an individual is unable to press a pendant alarm/pager but may wish to alert a carer or relative, who is in the property, particularly at night time. The individual would be able to speak to/alert the carer hands-free if the monitor is placed near to them.

Special Features:

- Widely commercially available at a variety of cost levels, including video monitors.

Suitable for:

- Those with very limited upper limb movement/dexterity and who are unable to shout/call to alert a carer when required or press a button on a pager etc. Those who have a carer or family member at all times within the property, who can carry the receiver. The individual will need to be able to speak or make a vocalisation to be able to be heard.

Product specification:

- Dependent on model chosen - a wide range are commercially available

Door Chimes for Attention Calling

Function	Environmental Controls
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/a

Physical ability required	Low to mid
Cognitive ability required	low
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum

Overview

These can often be used by individuals and their families/carers as a type of pager system within a property. When the individual presses the doorbell, which can be positioned on their table/lap/lanyard etc, the chime on the base unit will activate, alerting the carer. Base units can be plug in or mobile, allowing the carer to move around the property and take it with them if they wish.

Examples include https://www.screwfix.com/ Byron Battery Powered Wireless Door Chime Kit.

Special Features:

- Widely available from high-street/mainstream retailers at low cost e.g. Screwfix, B&Q, Amazon

Suitable for:

- Those with mobility problems or difficulty with calling out to alert a carer/family member

- Those who sleep downstairs and a carer/family member sleeps upstairs/out of range of calling

Product specification:

- Dependent on model chosen-range of use will vary

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Telecare - Various Devices
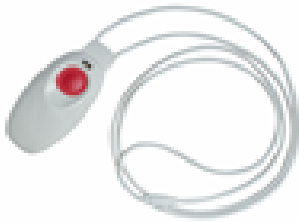
Function	Environmental Controls	Physical ability required	Low to mid
Category	Hardware	Cognitive ability required	Low
Access Method	Direct or switch	Ease of learning	Very easy
Operating system	N/a	Support needed	None beyond initial set up.

Overview

A range of devices to support individuals to remain independent and safe in their own homes. These can range from pendant alarms to falls detectors, bed and chair occupancy detectors, flood and smoke detectors and property exit sensors. These are usually available via the local council Social Services, but can also be purchased directly from private companies. There is usually an ongoing cost involved with the service.

Special Features:

- **Easy press adaptors** or switches may be available from companies for those with limited dexterity and difficulty pressing pendant alarm buttons.

- May be able to incorporate in to a full environmental control system if appropriate

Suitable for:

- Those at risk of safety issues around the home, those living alone or spending time alone.

- Those with physical and/or cognitive/memory problems.

Product specification:

- Dependent on product/company used. A landline phone line is usually required. May link to a central switchboard/service or to a family member

Controlling Items Around The Home

The Barnsley Assistive Technology Team has produced further in-depth guidance on control of products around the home, which is detailed in an additional document:

https://assistivetech.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/resource/additional-environmental-control-equipment-peripherals/

The above resource may be particularly useful for occupational therapists working in equipment and adaptations services or those who do not meet the assessment criteria for a specialised service, but who would benefit from more mainstream environmental control.

The resource contains information on equipment that can be used for home automation or remote control, including:

- Use of smart speakers and apps for home automation and environmental control
- Remote control (smart) light bulbs and remote-control light switches
- Remote control (smart) heating controls
- Remote control sockets
- Intercoms (including app-based video intercoms)
- Door, window, blind and curtain openers

Further ideas on individual products are listed below.

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Smart Home Products/ Systems

Function	Environmental control	Physical ability required	Variable dependent on how client is accessing the system.
Category	Software and hardware	Cognitive ability required	Good
Access Method	Direct	Ease of learning	Medium to high- requires good understanding of smartphone or smart speaker use
Operating system	iOS/ Android	Support needed	Support required for initial set up and install of products

Overview

There are an increasing number of 'Smart Home' products and systems on the market, which are now widely available from suppliers such as B&Q/ Amazon etc. These include, but not limited to **WEMO**, **Phillips Hue**, **Insteon, Samsung Smarthome** and **Loxone**.

Systems give control over items in the same range such as sockets (for plug in devices), lighting (lamps and main lighting via wall switches or Smart lightbulbs), motion detectors, web cams etc.

Access is via a free app, which is downloadable on either an Android or Apple device. Systems can also be made accessible via smart speakers such as the **Amazon Echo, Google Home or Apple Home pod,** which also offer access to other functions e.g. playing music, making phone calls and searching the internet.

Devices can be controlled via a phone app from anywhere with an internet or mobile signal. Additional devices can be added at any point.

It is usually necessary to have a wireless 'hub' or 'bridge' within the property to connect all of the devices. The smart speakers themselves will usually be unable to control peripherals without additional equipment.

Please see our additional support information on our website resource.

Special Features:

- Suitable for both Android and Apple products
- Able to 'build/design your own system' by choosing the products that you require
- Widely commercially available and fittable/ Non-specialist

Suitable for:

Individuals who may have difficulty mobilising and reaching different devices e.g. light switches, sockets, thermostats etc. but have good enough upper limb function to control a smartphone or ability to use a smart speaker- some of these clients may be appropriate for a referral to Barnsley AT Team also for assessment for an environmental control system and would be assessed on an individual basis. We would be happy to discuss this.

Note: Commands to Alexa can be recorded on simple single/multi-message switches (see AAC resource pack for product details). For example, the switch could say: "Alexa, play *favourite song*"

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Remote Control Sockets (Energenie)

Function	Environmental control		Physical ability required	Mid-level
Category	Hardware		Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Access Method	Direct		Ease of learning	Easy
Operating system	N/A		Support needed	Minimum (for initial set up)

Overview

Radio frequency remote controlled sockets (pack of 3 - Remote Control Sockets | Energy Saving Devices | Energenie) to control any domestic appliances (up to 13A). Comes with simple remote controller with on/off buttons for each of the four sockets and a button to turn them all on/off at the same time. Similar sockets are available from a range of different companies.

Special Features:

- Will work even when the socket is hidden behind furniture or in an adjacent room.

- An LED light on the remote on the sockets indicates when they are switched on.

- Easy to program/set up

Suitable for:

- Those with limited mobility and some reduced dexterity that wish to be able to control a number of plug-in devices from one position e.g. bed or wheelchair.

Product specification:

- 30-meter range

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Web: www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/at/ - Email: Barnsley.AT@nhs.net
Phone: 01226 432159 - Text Faults: 07709718461

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Easy Press Light Switches

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Mid-level
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Requires installation by qualified person

Overview

Large sized, easy press light switch. Suitable for those that struggle to press normal rocker type light switches. Can be positioned at a lower height for those that struggle to reach up or are wheelchair users. There are a variety of different suppliers of these but an example is: BG Evolve Pearl White 1G 2W Wide Rocker Light Switch PCDCL12WW | RS Electrical Supplies

Suitable for:

- Those with difficulties with fine and gross motor control

Product specification:

- Will require installation by a qualified person due to electrical work involved

- Available in different versions to suit lighting circuit e.g. double switch (2 gang) or 2-way versions.

- Available from a wide range of suppliers

Wireless, Kinetic Light Switches

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct (some have app support as well)
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Low
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Requires installation by qualified person

Overview

These switches use a wireless signal to turn a light on and off (receiver purchased separately). Therefore, they do not need to be wired into the wall electrics and can be placed anywhere in the house. For example, the switch could be placed on a bedside table to allow a client to control their overhead light. Examples are Eco Range Switches – ENER-J Smart Homes and Quinetic Wireless Switches.

Special Features:

- Pressing the switch generates the energy needed to transmit the signal, so no batteries are required.

- Are dimmable.

Suitable for:

- Those with difficulties with fine and gross motor control.

- Those with mobility difficulties.

Product Specification:

- Need to be installed by a qualified electrician.

- Available in 1,2, and 3 gang versions.

- IP protection level of IP67 so can be used outdoors and in bathrooms.

- Typical range of 20m indoors and 80m outdoors.

it-Click-On Plus

Function	EC, access practice
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Switch
Operating system	N/a

Physical ability required	Mid-level
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum (for initial set up)

Overview

The it-Click-On Plus allows you to control one or two appliances with a switch. For example, you could plug a lamp in, and use your switch to turn the lamp on and off. https://www.inclusive.com/uk/it-click-on-plus.html

Please see our resource 'Examples of activities for developing switch use' available on our website for ideas: https://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/resource/examples-of-activities-for-developing-switch-use/

Special Features:

This product can be set up to be operated by a switch in different ways:

- In "direct" mode, the appliance stays on for as long as the switch is being pressed.

- In "latched" mode, the first switch press turns the appliance on, and the next press stops it.

- In "timed" mode, the switch press turns the appliance on for a pre-set amount of time.

Product specification:

This product contains a Simply Works wireless receiver, so that it can be operated by a Simply Works wireless switch.

It also has two switch ports for plugging in wired switches.

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Inclusive MP3 Player – Switch Adapted

Function	Environmental control
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Direct
Operating system	N/A

Physical ability required	Mid-level
Cognitive ability required	Low to mid
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum (for initial set up)

Overview

The Inclusive MP3 player allows basic access to music for switch users. Switch Adapted – Inclusive MP3 Player – Inclusive Technology

Please see our resource 'Examples of activities for developing switch use' available on our website for ideas: https://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/resource/examples-of-activities-for-developing-switch-use/.

Special Features:

- 3 switches control play/pause, skip track forward, and skip track back.

- Users can plug in a USB stick with music or connect to a Bluetooth sound device.

- Long-life battery and clear sound.

Product Specifications:

- 3x 3.5mm switch ports

- USB C or wall charger

- Has large, high contrast buttons on device for direct access

Some other ideas for accessing music can be found at: Some Switch Access Options for Playing Music

Simple Music Player

Function	EC
Category	Hardware
Access Method	Lift lever
Operating system	N/a

Physical ability required	Mid-level
Cognitive ability required	Low
Ease of learning	Easy
Support needed	Minimum (for uploading music)

Overview

The Simple Music Player was designed for clients with dementia but could be used with people with other cognitive or visual issues. Simply lift the clearly marked lid and music will play. Close the lid to stop. This item can be purchased from a variety of suppliers.

Special Features:

- Comes in 3 different colours.

- Volume is set by carers/family so that it cannot be changed by accident.

- There is a switch under the lid that can be used to skip track, but not essential.

Product Specifications:

- Requires a USB connection to download MP3 tracks to the player.

- Capacity is 4Gb (approximately 1000 songs).

- Plugs into mains power.

- Has headphone socket.

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Phone: 01226 432159 - Text Faults: 07709718461

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Changelog

Date	Change	Owner
9/2/2018	Original version of Local Services Resource Pack.	Jenny Scott
11/3/2022	Version 5. Content updated.	
8/11/2024	Version 6. Local Services Resource Pack split into sections: AAC, EC, Computer Access and Mounting Solutions. Content updated. New trust branding applied. Publishing information and Changelog added. Equipment and hyperlinks updated.	Vicky Johnson and Kate Welland
17/3/25	Desktop publishing, accessibility via headings and overall review. Published	Simon Judge

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