



Appropriate Use of Loaned Assistive Technology Devices (Internet Safety, Vocabulary and Device Restrictions)

Some equipment provided by Barnsley AT Team can access the internet, may be able to take photos or videos, and communication aids provided by the team may have prestored communication vocabulary. While these features can be very helpful, they also introduce potential risks: including relating to internet safety and exposure to potentially inappropriate content. Our [loan agreement](#) sets out the responsibilities of Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and others relating to the use of these devices. This leaflet summarises some of these responsibilities.

Who is responsible?

Clients, families, and local professionals are responsible for:

- Internet access and safety, including: ensuring all networks used by the device (Wi-Fi or mobile data) have appropriate internet content filtering in place; setting up appropriate parental controls of the device; ensuring appropriate supervision of use is in place.
- Ensuring vocabulary, messages, images, and stored content included on devices are appropriate for the individual.
- Managing additional features of devices such as cameras.
- Managing and backing up personal data.

The Assistive Technology Team is responsible **only** for maintaining the device for its intended purpose. As stated in [the loan agreement](#): The Trust is not responsible for any content accessed on the internet or stored on the device. Any illegal or inappropriate material may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Useful resources

There are a number of resources from trusted organisations online dealing with internet safety:

- The UK Safer Internet Centre has resources for parents and carers, as well as education settings and others: <https://saferinternet.org.uk>
- NSPCC Keeping Children Safe online resource: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- Barnardos Keeping Children Safe online resource: www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/keeping-children-safe-online

If you have questions about how to setup controls on a device or edit a prestored vocabulary, please contact the help line of the communication aid software supplier:

- <https://assistivetech.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/contact-assistive-technology/support-contacts/>

For any other questions about the loaned equipment, please contact the Assistive Technology Team:

- <https://assistivetech.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/contact-assistive-technology/>