

Unspoken voices: What are the perspectives of people who use alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) on the impact and effectiveness of AAC equipment?

Research project

over to you →

Background

Alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) can support people with communication difficulties. We know that some people engage really well with their communication aid equipment and with the services who provide it, but others do not. There is currently no consistent way of gathering feedback from people who use AAC services.

This research aims to build on existing knowledge to develop a greater understanding about what factors influence how well people engage with communication aid services.

Method

A systematic review is currently underway to review what tools are used to record patient report outcome measures in published research.

A second literature review, focusing on user perspectives and outcomes for AAC, will inform the development of a topic guide for qualitative interviews.



Next steps

A series of interviews with young people and adults who use communication aids will be conducted at different points across the AAC pathway - from assessment and provision of equipment to the use of communication aids in people's homes, schools and communities

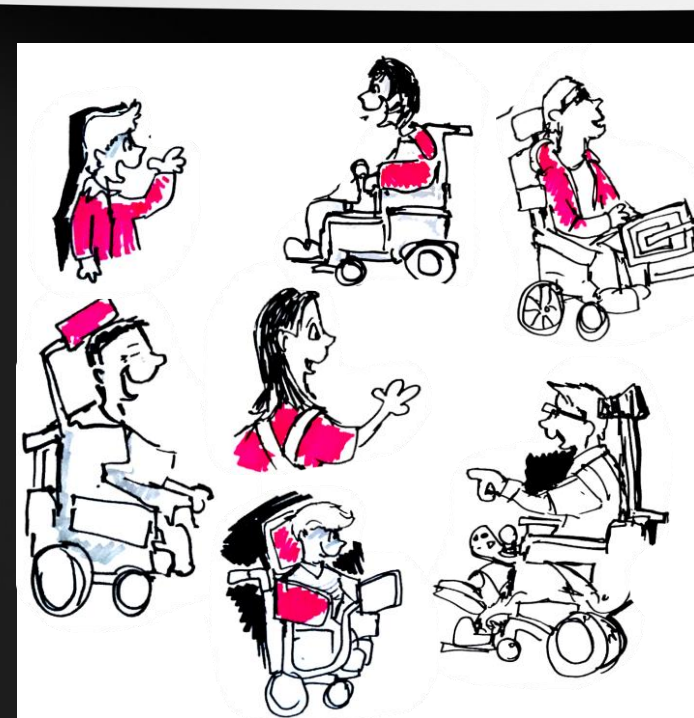
Results

The results of qualitative data analysis will inform a consensus study to identify common ideas, themes and priorities for people

The project intends to find out what supports people to use their communication aid equipment and what outcomes are important following receipt of equipment.

The ultimate aim of the project is to develop a patient reported outcome measure (PROM) for use by clinical services.

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