

## Chime Audiology Services

### Transition Policy

#### Timing of transition

Young people transfer from paediatric to adult audiology services at the age of 16+. The exact age will vary but in general will coincide with the move from full – time education to employment.

The paediatric audiology service provides annual hearing aid reviews and a priority service for repairs and appointments. The adult audiology service currently provides five yearly reassessment and hearing aid reviews with access to repair services.

Transition support is provided by Hearing Therapy

Educational support for most young people up to the age of 16 has been provided by the local education authority Teachers of the Deaf. For students moving to further education college or in to higher education this support may be available via the disability co-ordinator at the college or university. For those remaining in school with sixth forms it would be expected to continue to be provided by Local Education Authorities

#### Planning for transition

Awareness of the transition process will be raised at annual reassessment appointments from year 9 with issue of the transition leaflet and promotion of other suitable material e.g. NDCS 'the buzz' website. As part of their annual reassessment appointment young people in year 11 will be introduced to the transition support worker (hearing therapist) who will outline the support that can be offered. Young people will be offered a further appointment with the transition support worker (during the summer holidays)

#### Transition process

At the appointment with the transition support worker young people are encouraged to discuss their plans for the following year and identify any provision that needs to be put in place. The transition pack will be issued. Longer term plans will also be discussed at this stage if appropriate and other material from the pack will be highlighted. If necessary further appointments will be made, and young people will be told how they may contact the transition support worker for further advice or assistance as necessary.

#### Liaison with other agencies

**Education (TOD's)** - will be asked annually for names of children with cochlear implants in year 11 at school (who may not be registered with our service). Audiology (audiologist and hearing therapist) to meet regularly with named TOD to discuss transition issues.

**Careers SW** - signed consent to share names/ schools of children with hearing loss with Careers SW is to be obtained by audiology at annual reassessment appointments or by letter and shared annually with Careers SW for children in years 9,10 &11. Transition worker to link with named person in Job Centre Plus

**Social services** - will be contacted with the agreement of the young person if it is felt that further support would be beneficial

#### Audiology Services

In this area paediatric and adult services are based within the same department at the hospital and share a common database. Audiology will continue to see young people under the paediatric service while they remain in full- time education. Discussion of where they are in the transition process will form part of their annual hearing aid review appointment for young people aged 16-21 and liaison with hearing therapy will occur as necessary. Young people will be informed when they are being placed on to adult waiting lists. In most cases an intermediate appointment after 2-3 years will be offered. Young people attending further or higher education college courses out of area during term time can continue to be seen in the department or if preferred care can be transferred to another department. Support can be given to students in higher education resident in term time only if requested.

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