

# Training & Education – Curriculum

The Barnsley AT Team offer a training curriculum for relevant professionals working within the Yorkshire and Humber NHS region. We offer training sessions, accredited educational courses and open days, we also host training by other providers including suppliers. This curriculum is reviewed and developed over time – if you have ideas or requests for future courses please do get in touch. [Please see the training schedule for dates of courses being offered.](#) We are also able to offer these course for whole teams (8 people or more) on dates to suit you, please complete the form on the training section of our website: [www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/training-courses/](http://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/training-courses/)

All our training is currently delivered via Microsoft Teams.

Our training courses are delivered free of charge, except where charges are required for accreditation (such as the Elklan AAC courses). Our courses are open to professionals working within the Yorkshire & Humberside region. **Unfortunately, we cannot accept parents or carers on our courses.**

Our courses are classed as either introductory, general or specialist level. Definitions are given below. We also set our course objectives against [the IPAACKS framework](#):

**Introductory:** Participants will have limited or no prior knowledge of AAC or EC. These sessions are ideal for those who are just starting to work within the field of AAC or EC or may be involved at a strategic level (e.g. Service managers, commissioners).

**General-** These sessions are aimed at those who may work with AAC/EC on an occasional or even regular basis and have a reasonable awareness and understanding of AAC/EC assessment and technology (e.g. Specialist school therapists, teachers, adult community therapists) Some prior knowledge of AAC terminology is assumed but a glossary of terms and background information will be provided before the session.

**Specialist-** These courses are aimed at those who work with AAC/EC on a regular basis and have several years experience. Participants are assumed to have a good prior knowledge of AAC terminology as well as a range of AAC/EC assessments, hardware and software. Participants will likely have some or sole responsibility for AAC/EC provision as apart of their job role.

## AT Team Delivered Training

Course	Summary	Learning objectives:	Level
<b>Supporting AAC users: how to set goals and create the best environment for success!</b>	<p>This course is aimed at Speech &amp; Language Therapists and anyone who supports AAC users (e.g. teaching staff, adult day settings). Participants will learn about frameworks and models that can support them to set goals for AAC users. We will discuss practical considerations that can lead to consistent and effective use of person, paper and powered communication across a range of environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predict the barriers and motivators to successful use of AAC.</li> <li>• Identify goal setting and outcome measuring tools.</li> <li>• Apply a range of models to a client in order to set clear goals for intervention.</li> <li>• Explain how Aided Language Stimulation can facilitate success with AAC.</li> <li>• Describe the hierarchy of prompt fading.</li> </ul>	<p>General IPAACKS Level 2</p>
<b>Access to assistive technology: Physical and postural considerations</b>	<p>This course is aimed at Occupational Therapists but would also be suitable for Speech &amp; Language Therapists. The course will explore how a person's physical skills and posture can impact their ability to access assistive technology, such as environmental controls and communication aids.</p>	<p>To follow</p>	<p>Specialist IPAACKS Level 3</p>

## AT Team Delivered Training

Course	Summary	Learning objectives:	Level
<b>Access to assistive technology: Visual and Sensory considerations</b>	This course is aimed at Occupational Therapists but would also be suitable for Speech & Language Therapists. The course will explore how a person's vision and sensory skills can impact their ability to access assistive technology, such as environmental controls and communication aids.	To follow	Specialist  IPAACKS Level 3
<b>Access to assistive technology: Cognitive and learning considerations</b>	This course is aimed at Occupational Therapists but would also be suitable for Speech & Language Therapists. The course will explore how a person's cognitive skills and learning needs can impact their ability to access assistive technology, such as environmental controls and communication aids.	To follow	Specialist  IPAACKS Level 3
<b>An introduction to the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team</b>	This session is an introduction to electronic assistive technology with a focus on augmentative and alternative communication, environmental control and access to computers. This session will also provide: an overview of the role of the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team in providing specialised AAC and EC services; how and when to refer to the team; the client pathway; and the responsibilities of local services and commissioners. The session is aimed at raising awareness of electronic assistive technology and who can benefit from it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the terms Environmental Control and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.</li> <li>• Identify the roles of the non-specialised and specialised service in the care pathway for people who require assistive technology.</li> <li>• Identify the factors that might influence the successful use of assistive technology.</li> <li>• List some typical goals for an assistive technology assessment.</li> <li>• Understand how to make an appropriate referral to the specialised service</li> </ul>	Introductory  IPAACKS Level 1

## AT Team Delivered Training

Course	Summary	Learning objectives:	Level
<b>Computer, console and gaming access</b>	This course is aimed at Occupational Therapists. It will cover the accessibility options available to those with complex access needs to enable them to access computers and consoles for internet browsing, social media and gaming. We will look at the Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch, Windows and Apple computers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be able to use Ease of Access settings for Windows (Windows 10), accessibility settings on Mac OS (MacBook) to support access needs.</li> <li>To identify a range of access options and peripherals for mouse pointer control, navigation and typing.</li> <li>To be aware of specialist options using computer access with eye gaze and specialist software, e.g. Grid3, Communicator 5 and Dwell Clicker.</li> <li>To identify access options for Xbox and PlayStation and Nintendo Switch gaming consoles using the Xbox Adaptor (XBA) and Game Control Mixer with alternative joysticks/switches.</li> </ul>	Specialist  IPAACKS Level 3

## AT Team Delivered Training

Course	Summary	Learning objectives:	Level
<b>Overview of non-specialised Environmental Controls solutions</b>	<p><i>*Please note, this is an update on the course which has run over previous years.</i></p> <p>This session is aimed at Occupational Therapists. It will provide an overview of assistive technologies for environmental controls and the local team's role in their provision. The course will focus on interventions that are within the scope of local services (i.e. not the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team) and will also support a local team in making appropriate referrals to our service. We will explore attention calling solutions, big buttoned remote controls and smart home systems (e.g. Alexa, Google Home)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List the factors to consider when assessing someone for alternative access to home electronics.</li> <li>Explain the ways in which access to home electronics can be adapted to meet a range of sensory, cognitive and physical needs.</li> <li>Identify environmental control solutions which would be provided by a non-specialised service versus a specialised service.</li> <li>Identify the barriers that might prevent someone using an environmental control system and possible solutions.</li> </ul>	<p>General</p> <p>IPAACKS Level 2</p>
<b>iPads and Android tablets: Adapting settings to support users' needs</b>	<p><i>*Please note, this is an update on the course which has run over previous years.</i></p> <p>This session is suitable to Speech &amp; Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and anyone involved in supporting people with motor, sensory and cognitive difficulties. Participants will learn about the accessibility settings on both Android and Apple tablets and how using these can enable people to access tablets successfully.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain an overview of the accessibility features available on tablets and smartphones</li> <li>Learn how to set up and customise a range of accessibility features</li> <li>Know where to look for further information on accessibility features</li> <li>Identify when a referral to a specialised service is appropriate</li> </ul>	<p>General</p> <p>IPAACKS Level 2</p>

## AT Team Delivered Training

Course	Summary	Learning objectives:	Level
<b>Symbol Apps for AAC</b>	This session is aimed at Speech and Language Therapists. It will give an overview of the common AAC apps available, both on Android tablets and iPads. Participants will learn what to consider when choosing an app. Please note- this is not training on the editing of specific apps, we encourage you to seek support from the app developer for this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify appropriate resources to use during assessment for use of a communication app.</li> <li>• State factors to consider when assessing clients for use of a communication app.</li> <li>• Identify key features of apps to consider when matching one to a client.</li> <li>• List three popular symbol-based apps and evaluate their suitability for a client.</li> </ul>	General  IPAACKS Level 2
<b>Text-based AAC systems</b>	<p><i>*Please note, this is an update on the course which has run over previous years.</i></p> <p>This session will explore how to support individuals who use text to support their communication. We will look at the range of ways we can adapt text-based communication systems for those with physical, sensory and learning needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the role of specialised services vs. non-specialised services and when to refer to BAT Team.</li> <li>• Describe a range of means to access paper based and powered AAC systems and demonstrate how to modify them to meet a person’s sensory, learning and physical needs.</li> <li>• List the factors to consider in the assessment of a person requiring text based AAC.</li> <li>• Identify variations in the way text based AAC systems are presented and organised.</li> <li>• Predict and plan for changes in a user’s abilities and how their AAC system might need to be modified over time.</li> </ul>	General  IPAACKS Level 2

## AT Team Delivered Accredited Training and Education

Course	Summary	Aims	Level
<b>ELKLAN AAC CPD (Level 4) Course - 'Supporting Children and Adults using AAC'</b>	<p>This is an accredited (level 4) course for practitioners supporting users of AAC. This course will equip participants with innovative tools and methods to develop and encourage communication This is the CPD course at level 4 for SLT's and SLT assistants who want to deepen their knowledge and skills.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.elklan.co.uk/courses/practitioners/supporting-children-and-adults-using-aac">https://www.elklan.co.uk/courses/practitioners/supporting-children-and-adults-using-aac</a> for further information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication)?</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Unaided Communication</li> <li>• Low Tech Communication Aids</li> <li>• High Tech Communication aids</li> </ul>	<p>General</p> <p>IPAACKS Level 2</p>
<b>ELKLAN AAC - 'Supporting Children and Adults using AAC' - Train the Trainer</b>	<p>This is an course for those wishing to deliver the ELKLAN AAC course in their area.</p> <p>The course will allow tutors to provide practical, accredited training to those supporting all users of AAC.</p> <p>Following successful completion of this course tutors can then cascade training to colleagues, assistants and education staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the ELKLAN AAC course within a local area</li> <li>• Deliver a course that supports and promotes AAC use within a locality</li> </ul>	<p>Specialist</p> <p>General</p> <p>IPAACKS Level 3</p>