

Transition Year 9

(age 13-14)

What is Transition? and Equipment Available

Audiology transition means the move from Paediatric Audiology Services to the Adult Audiology Service.

What is Audiology Transition?

Transition is a planned process to help you prepare for adulthood. All young people go through transition; this includes careers guidance in school and anyone who helps you to make decisions about what to do when you are sixteen. Have you thought about your options?

Transition also includes health care, as a young person it is likely your parent/guardian help you by making appointments on your behalf or reminding you to wear your hearing aids. As you get older you may need to begin to take more responsibility for your care. Within Audiology, Transition focuses on your hearing and communication needs.

The Audiology Transition Service is designed for individuals who require hearing aid care and are between the ages of 15 and 18 years old. As you are now nearing the age of 15 years old, you will soon be moving into the transitional service, whereby you will see one of our transitional audiologists, for your hearing care.

Why is Transition important?

Transition is important to help you achieve your goals. It is important you are aware of the support available to you if you decide to stay at school, attend college/university or start working. Support is available and may include communication support (someone to help take notes in classes or meetings), equipment to help alongside your hearing aids and/or financial support.

Under the paediatric Audiology service, it is likely that you will have seen the same, designated audiologist for the majority of your appointments. In the adult audiology service you could see many

different audiologists. It is important that your move into the adult service runs smoothly.

The transitional service allows you to gain hearing aid support, whilst learning to gain more responsibility for your hearing aid/s. It also allows you to gain some access to the adult hearing aid service during this time.

As you get older, the additional services available to you, both within and outside of the audiology department may change, and it is important that you become familiar with these in preparation for your move into the adult service. During your transitional period, you may also have questions regarding educational, social or occupational support, and this can be discussed within your appointments as well. If needed, it may be possible for your audiologist to liaise with these external services to provide a smoother transition in education and/or employment.

During the transitional period, you will have more opportunity to gain more choice and control over your hearing aid care. For example, in the adult service you will receive less frequent appointments, you will need to organise your appointments, you will need to ensure your hearing aids are cleaned and serviced regularly and you will need to ensure you collect your batteries regularly. In the paediatric service appointment letters, reports and information have been directed more towards your parents, however in the adult service these are written for you.

The transitional service will aim to break these barriers and differences between the paediatric and adult services, whilst maintaining some regular support.

You may also have more questions about your hearing loss and hearing aid care. It may be that this was only explained to your parents in the past. The transitional service aims to give you support in understanding this yourself before entering the adult service.

When will I be moving to the adult service?

This depends on you and your situation. Some people will move to the adult service sooner than others. We will help you decide when you are ready to move. This is usually between the ages of 16-25 (depending on individual situations ie education, individual needs). From this time, your appointments may be completed by any of the audiologists that work within the department and you will have full responsibility for your hearing aids.

What Happens next?

Following today's appointment, you will receive one further annual review appointment in the Paediatric Audiology Service. Following that final appointment in Paediatric Audiology, if you and your audiologist feel it's time to move, at the next annual review appointment you will be seen by the Audiology transition service.

Who is involved in Transition?

Transition Team Leader:

Hannah Gravenor: hannah.gravenor@nhs.net

Paediatric Team Leader:

Ben Gillett Email: ben.gillett@nhs.net

Head of Adult Audiology:

Elisa Padoan Email: elisa.padoan@nhs.net

Equipment

Although the NHS does not supply equipment it can be helpful to know what types of equipment are available to support your hearing. This is particularly important when you are making decisions about what to do when you leave school. For example if you are concerned about hearing in a university lecture hall or hearing in the workplace.

You may already use equipment alongside your hearing aids to support your hearing. The most commonly used equipment in schools are an Assistive Listening device (ALD - historically known as FM systems). These are designed to improve hearing in difficult listening environments. In a classroom environment sound travels throughout the room and will bounce off hard surfaces such as tables, floors and walls. Classrooms can also be noisy and you may need to be able to hear the teacher from a distance.

An ALD system helps by the teacher speaking into a microphone which then sends this information to your hearing aids, so it sounds as if you are beside your teacher rather than a distance away. ALD systems can also help to reduce background noise. There are many different types of ALD systems available, one example is the Phonak Roger Pen.



Equipment can not only be helpful in school, it can also support your independence or help you to keep in touch with your friends/family!

If you have difficulty hearing conversation on your mobile phone, you could use a Bluetooth neckloop or a streaming device paired with your mobile. You are also able to use ear hooks which look as though you

are wearing headphones rather than wearing a loop around your neck. You could even have a device which connects to the back of your mobile phone and sends the phone conversation directly through your hearing aids! Below are a few examples.



Similar equipment will also help you to listen to music or hear videos from your phone, I-pad, laptop or tablet.

Equipment can also help you hear the TV, phone, doorbell, smoke alarm and alarm clock! If you are interested in equipment please ask your audiologist for more information.

Where can I to obtain equipment?:

You could visit Soundbase or Chime Hearing Centre to view equipment with your parents. Equipment is usually self-funded (purchased by patients or their families) or can be funded by government schemes such as Disabled Students Allowance (18 years+ only) or Access to work when you begin employment.

Sound Base

Sound base can show you equipment and you can ‘try before you buy’. Please Note: Sound base does not sell equipment themselves and is a free service provided by Devon County Council.

Sound base is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 1pm for a walk-in service. Appointments for other times of the week are available by arrangement.

Address: Bull Meadow Clinic, Bull Meadow Road, Exeter, EX2 4JF

Tel: 01392 424018

Email: soundbase@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/care-and-health/disabilities/physical-sensory/sound-base/>

If you find it difficult to travel to Exeter - The Outreach Sensory Service may be useful to you – Staff run clinics in locations around West Devon, Torrington and Holsworthy on a regular timetable, offering a free confidential and impartial service for people with a hearing or visual impairment. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/care-and-health/disabilities/physical-sensory/sensory-disability-services/>

Connevans

Equipment can be viewed online.

Address: Connevans Limited, Bridge House, 1 Nutfield Road,
Merstham, Surrey, RH1 3EB

Telephone: 01737 247571

Email: askaquestion@connevans.com

Website: <http://www.connevans.co.uk/catalogue/11/Deaf-Equipment>

Gordon Morris

Equipment can be viewed online.

Address: Gordon Morris Ltd, Unit 21 Wessex Park, Somerton Business
Park, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6SB

Telephone: 01458 272121

Email: info@gordonmorris.co.uk

Website: <http://www.gordonmorris.co.uk>

Chime Hearing Centre

You can arrange an appointment for information about equipment specifically designed to work with your Phonak hearing aids, such as:

- TV
- Personal Communication Device (for use in meetings, groups and noisy environments).
- Hear mobile phone calls through your hearing aids
- Stream audio to your hearing aids from any Bluetooth enabled device. Listen to music or watch videos.

Address: Chime hearing centre, 21-22 Queens Street, Exeter, EX4
3SH

Tel: 01392 953060

Email: chc.exeter@chimehealth.co.uk

Website: <http://www.chimehealth.co.uk>

Further information on technology and how it can help you is available from the NDCS <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/products-and-technology/>

Reference: Successful transitions to adulthood for deaf young people in England. Published by the National Deaf Children's Society © March 2016

Address: Chime Social Enterprise, Audiology Department, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Wonford), Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 5DW

Tel: 01392 402223

E-Mail: cse.audiology@nhs.net

www.chimehealth.co.uk

Chime provides NHS Audiology Services for NHS Devon - Mid, East and Exeter areas. From 1st May 2011 the existing audiology department including staff and equipment transferred to Chime - the new Social Enterprise Company. Chime is located at the RD&E Foundation Trust (but is separately managed).
