

# Regional Communication Aid Service (RCAS)

## Service Booklet

- **Visiting Assessment Service**
- **Equipment Loan Service**
- **Advice Sessions**
- **Helpline**
- **Education and Training**



## Introduction

We work with people of all ages who have a severe speech impairment. Most can communicate with very few people, if with anyone at all.

We help people to improve communication in daily life - using their own abilities and new technology to build a better 'total communication' system with communication aids.

We provide NHS Services, primarily to people who live in:

Co. Durham  
North Cumbria  
Gateshead & South Tyneside  
Newcastle & North Tyneside  
Sunderland  
Northumberland  
Teesside

People who live elsewhere are covered by the NHS cost per case system.

## Regional Services

### Vising Assessment Service

We provide a specialist assessment service to determine whether a communication aid will help meet a person's communication needs. We work closely with a person and their family, carers and local care team to ensure that a collaborative solution is met. This may involve more than one visit. Most people prefer to be seen at home or school but we visit other places too.

The local team contributes to the agreed recommendations and action plan and we prepare a report for the client and referrer.

### Equipment Loan Service

We provide an equipment loan service for individuals to trial communication aids based on the outcome of the assessment. If nationally agreed criteria is met, then we would be able to offer a long term loan of the device. In cases where the criteria is not met, we will help your local care team identify possible funding options.

### Advice Sessions

We provide help for professionals, carers, families, communication aid users.  
Examples: clinical consultations; technical "trouble-shooting", service delivery issues.

## Help Line

We provide information and advice for professionals, carers, communication aid users and families.

## Education and Training

We arrange and host courses, work-shops, study days, supplier demonstrations, talks, exhibitions, etc.

# Other Northern Electronic Assistive Technology Services

## Environmental Control Systems

Electronic devices assist people with severe physical disabilities to have greater independence at home.

**Contact:** Graeme Marsh, Regional Assessor

**Tel:** 01434 655 751 **Fax:** 01434 655 752

**Email:** [graeme.marsh@ntw.nhs.uk](mailto:graeme.marsh@ntw.nhs.uk)

## Regional Technical Aid Service

Comprehensive technical assistance including assessment for powered wheelchair controls and computer access.

**Contact:** Mike Broadhurst, Head of Bioengineering

**Tel:** 0191 233 6161 Extension 22489

**Fax:** 0191 226 0970

**Website:** [www.rmpd.org.uk](http://www.rmpd.org.uk)

## The Team

- Graeme Marsh, RCAS & ECS Service Lead
- Andrew Macdonald, Clinical Engineer (Specialist—Augmentative and Alternative Communication)
- Jenny Suttie, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- Emma Hammond, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- Heather Scorfield, Advanced Occupational Therapist
- Phil McGonigle, Clinical Technologist/Rehabilitation Engineer
- Ian Moore, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant
- Lauren Keith, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant
- Phil Gardiner, Equipment Officer
- Julie Young RCAS Team Secretary
- Dru Dunlop, RCAS Admin Officer

Please contact us if you want to know more about the Regional Communication Aid Service.

Please tell us if you would like this leaflet or any other information in a different format. We also welcome comments and suggestions for improvements.

### Contact Details

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