Dear families,

During these extraordinary times we are exploring ways of 'virtually' keeping in touch with you all to offer support and information. We would like to reassure you that support will continue to be available for you and your family. Your Advisory Teacher will remain in contact with you to offer support by email, phone or via video conference calls, according to your preference.

Please contact us for advice and support as required:

John Barron – johnbarron@barnsley.gov.uk 07808735475
Leanne Allen – leanneallen@barnsley.gov.uk 07714759580
Rebecca Cook – rebeccacook@barnsley.gov.uk 07808735481

Audiology Service Updates

Your child's clinic might have already contacted you, but here is the information we have currently as of 06.04.20.

Yorkshire Auditory Implant Service

- All routine face to face appointments have been cancelled as far as the end of April, and patients have been notified by telephone. Switch on and six week appointments are still being scheduled at the moment, if patients are well and able to come. However only one parent is allowed to attend appointments.
- Letters have been sent out to parents of children on assessment to say that the process is currently on hold due to the Covid 19 outbreak.
- Letters have been sent out to patients who might be expecting a routine appointment in the coming weeks, explaining that these will also be on hold for now.
- The YAIS is trying to maintain a skeleton service to deal with spares and repairs and keep patients' hearing. If you have any issues, please ring rather than coming to the centre. YAIS would like people to post equipment in, but if it is brought in person there are strict measures in place which patients must follow. The instructions are clearly displayed on the doors at YAIS. Patients with equipment are not allowed in the building.

Sheffield Children's Hospital

- Similarly, all routine and face to face appointments are cancelled apart from for the most urgent cases. The hospital is still offering phone appointments, if something is not working or you suspect a change in your child's hearing levels. Currently however, there is no testing taking place of hearing thresholds or any facility for ear mould impressions to be taken.
- Faulty aids: a replacement can be sent out in the post. Also new tubing and batteries can be posted out. If your child loses their ear mould, the hospital might be able to send out a replacement. Please contact them for further details.
- The hospital is maintaining a skeleton service. Someone will check phone messages every day on either 0114 271 7450 (main number) or 0114 271 7462 (workshop).
- You can also email the service on:

- scn-tr.audiology@nhs.net
- Please visit the web page for further information and answers to frequently asked questions:
- https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/services/hearing/

Paediatric Audiology Barnsley

- All appointments have been cancelled.
- Batteries and tubing can be posted out as needed.
- Please phone 01226 644804 to inform paediatric audiology about any repairs. Any faulty hearing aids can be dropped off at New Street Health Centre and a replacement picked up from there.
- If your child has lost their ear mould, again please phone paediatric audiology to enquire whether they can order a replacement.

Useful Links and Websites

The **National Deaf Children's Society** has a number of videos to help you with hearing aid care at home.

NDCS 'How to look after your deaf child's hearing aid'. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl3WRngfB5g

NDCS 'How to change the tubing in your deaf child's hearing aids': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVJeA4FEjhQ

NDCS 'How to change tubing and batteries in your hearing aid with Alex and Grace' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLu0CQKlzLo

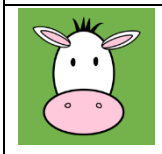
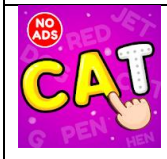
It also has dedicated web pages with support for families and young people during the Coronavirus outbreak.
https://www.ndcs.org.uk/blog/coronavirus-and-support-for-deaf-children-information-for-families/

The Elizabeth Foundation are waiving all fees until further notice for their online **Let's Listen and Talk** programme, so that families who need it can benefit from the advice. Along with information the programme provides hundreds of games and activities to use in the home so parents can support listening and talking for their children with hearing loss aged 0-5. www.letslistenandtalk.org

The hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers **Phonak** and **Advanced Bionics** have a website which features lots of different listening activities you can try at home with your children.
The Listening Room https://thelisteningroom.com/

MED EL has also produced a series of brilliant short videos about supporting your child's listening and language development at home.
https://blog.medel.com/rehab-at-home/

Educational Apps

	Ear ID	Interactive journey through the ear
	VocAB Scenes	Games to promote listening and language development
	What's that Sound?	Increasing difficulty – identify sound
	Animals for Toddlers	Interactive picture
	Farm sounds Lite	Listening to different animal sounds
	Sound Touch Lite	Listening to different sounds
BabyBeats	BabyBeats	Musical activities, helping little ones learn to listen and communicate
	ABC Spelling Games for Kids	Learn to read and write commonly used English First Words.
	Splingo's Language Universe	Activities to develop language and listening