



Cambridge Campaign for Tackling Acquire Deafness, 8a Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH
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Registered charity No 27815

Dear all,

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There are a lot of changes proposed for the NHS which will impact on all of us. The White Paper on the NHS re-organisation has been published and we are currently in the consultation period. A group of charities has mobilised a co-ordinated response and although this is still being debated I am setting out below the points being proposed. The White Paper mentions ophthalmology but makes no mention of audiology and, as the consultation period ends on 11th October, there is a need for us to act quickly to make sure we don't get overlooked. Here are the points that are suggested:

1. We regret that deafness and hearing loss are not mentioned in the White Paper.
2. There should be no regression on waiting times for audiology.
3. The current failure of GPs to refer up to 45% of people on to audiology services is not acceptable; we want assurances that GP commissioning would

improve this rather than lead to even fewer referrals.

4. People should be able to directly access community based audiology services, without going through their GP.
5. Audiology services should remain free at point of delivery.
6. There should be improved access to communication services for deaf people when using any NHS service.

I have agreed to support this on behalf of CAMTAD. Anyone can join in the consultation by writing or emailing nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk

and if you live in Health Minister Andrew Lansley's constituency you may like to contact him directly on
Tel: 01954 212 707
Fax: 01954 211 625
lansleya@parliament.uk

As we have seen before the link has not been made with improving services to deaf people or people with a hearing loss, and improvements in other areas such as

people's ability to work, socialise, and live independently, with the cost saving that goes with a better quality of life.

On our own patch, the audiology recommissioning process has resumed and the current forecast is for the new provider (who is not yet decided) to take over responsibility in the new financial year, at the beginning of April.

We were very sorry to have to cancel the Barn Dance. Unfortunately we had selected a time when too many people had also chosen to go on holiday, so we did not get enough take up of the tickets. We have learned some lessons and are very grateful to the Waterbeach Social Club who waived our deposit, so no money was lost. We send our apologies to Damson Jam, the band. Perhaps there is another form of entertainment that CAMTAD supporters would find more attractive. Suggestions are welcome.

We are delighted to have

opened 3 new sessions in Huntingdonshire over the summer including our first evening session in St. Neots. We now have 10 sessions in this district and the task is to build up the numbers. Bill Morris is giving coffee morning talks in the Sheltered Housing Units managed by Luminus Housing as part of Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age, which should help to publicise what we do in the area. You will see advertising in District Wide, Cope Magazine and the County Council Directory. Anyone who has contact with a group who would like a talk should get in touch with me.

By the time you read this we will have had our second equipment demonstration at Ely Methodist Church. We hope to build on the work started in Cambridge to provide better and accessible

information to people about what assistive equipment available. We are also loaning telephones to the Emmeline Centre to train people with Cochlear Implants how to use the telephone.

I went to upgrade my own mobile phone the other day and saw that the Doro amplified mobile phone, is now offered as one of the free telephones you get when you sign up for a contract. I have heard very good reports of this phone and it is good to see it on show in a regular phone shop. I got a phone from Orange and had to get the shop assistant to ring me on it to make sure I could hear. He was very helpful and I'd like to give the shop full marks for the service. I was amused to find that the phone has the option to turn on



Doro PhoneEasy 410 GSM
Photo courtesy of
www.connevans.co.uk

background music while you are talking. I cannot imagine why anyone would want this, even with crystal clear hearing.

Time is rushing past and the annual lunch is almost upon us, slightly earlier this year. Please all come to enjoy the meal with us at Cambridge Regional College. I hope to see you there.

Frances

Dates for your Diary

15th October:	Deadline for ordering Annual Lunch tickets (please see attached invitation)
1st November:	12.00 Annual Lunch at Cambridge Regional College, Kings Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2QT
29th Sep:	Training for new volunteers, at CDA, 8 Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH
1st-29th Oct: (weekly)	Training for new volunteers, at The Scout Hut, 195 Perne Road CB1 3NT
2nd Dec:	10.30-12.30 Equipment demonstration at The Cloisters, The Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH

OFCOM research project

Peter Teich has drawn our attention to a major research project on the Text Relay service.

Here is an extract from the website www.oltextrelay.com

“Ofcom is currently running a research project on the subject of relay services.

As part of this process they have asked Opinion Leader, an independent market and social research company to run a series of meetings. These meetings are to find out the views of people who have used and have not used relay services.

In particular, we would like to hear from the following people:

- Those who are deaf, partially deaf (or hard of hearing)*
- Those who are deafblind*
- Those who have difficulties with speech*
- Those who aren't deaf and don't have hearing or speech difficulties but who have used relay services, e.g. family members or professionals for work or caring purposes and friends/family.*

We are offering a range of ways to take part including:

- Face-to-face interviews or small group discussions with communications support as required*
- Extended online discussions*
- Short Online Questionnaire*
- Pen and paper questionnaire*

that you can send back in a pre-paid envelope

If you are interested in taking part in the face to face or in the extended online discussion, you will be reimbursed with a payment of £35 for your time and travel costs. The interviews will take up to 1.5 hours.

There is limited space, but all applicants will be contacted by email. We will do our very best to make sure you can take part in the way you prefer.”

The research group can also be contacted by post at Opinion Leader, 4th Floor Holborn Gate, 26 Southampton Buildings London WC2A 1AH.

Peter is a strong supporter of CapTel which is used widely in the US but which ceased provision here in 2007. This allows you to both hear the caller's voice and see the words in captions.

This is how it works from the Cap Tel website:

You dial the other person's number, exactly the same way as with any other telephone. While you dial, the CapTel phone automatically connects to the captioning service.

When the other party answers, you hear everything they say, just like a traditional call. At the same time, the captioning service transcribes everything they say into captions, which appear on the CapTel display

window. You hear what you can, and read what you need to.

When people call you, they need to dial the captioning service first and enter your telephone number in order for you to see captions during the call.

Peter feels this is much superior to Type talk which uses text as an alternative to hearing the voice, so you don't get an opportunity to hear as well.

Please take part in the research so that as many views as possible are heard.

Roy Evans

We are sad to report the death of Roy Evans on 17th July this year. Many of you will remember Roy as Honorary Treasurer of CAMTAD, and during his work with us in those early years he saw the organisation grow considerably.

Our thoughts are with his wife Barbara, their family and friends.

Small Ad

Screen phone for sale, 3 months old, hardly used. £100.

Please contact
Mr Francis, 01480 394757

From the Media: Implant gives 'stereo hearing' to deaf at half the price to NHS

A deaf woman has become the first in the country to be given "stereo" hearing from just one cochlear implant.

The new electronic device could revolutionise treatment for the very hard of hearing as it costs half as much as previous techniques.

In the past the only way for deaf adults to have all round hearing was to be given two cochlear implants but because they cost £25,000 each the NHS has decided that it is too expensive.

Usually adults only have one implant fitted in one ear which leads to problems in noisy situations or locating the origins of sound.

Now the new operation carried out at the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre (SOECIC) means that bilateral hearing is possible from just one implant.

The new procedure works because the system connects the implant to both ears and collects sound from two external microphones.

"We are very excited because it is a way of getting the effect of two implants for the price of one," said Dr Helen Cullington, a clinical scientist at Southampton University who helped carry out the operation.

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that can help both

adults and children who have a severe to profound hearing loss because through disease or genetics their cochlear is damaged.

It has two parts: an internal receiver and wire, technically called as electrode array, and an external microphone combined with a speech processor that together looks like a hearing aid.

The microphone converts sound into electrical pulses, which are then filtered and amplified by the speech processor and transmitted through the skin to the internal receiver which passes them along to the cochlear via the electrode arrays.

In the new system, there are two wires – one to each ear – and two microphones on each side of the head which feed the speech processor.

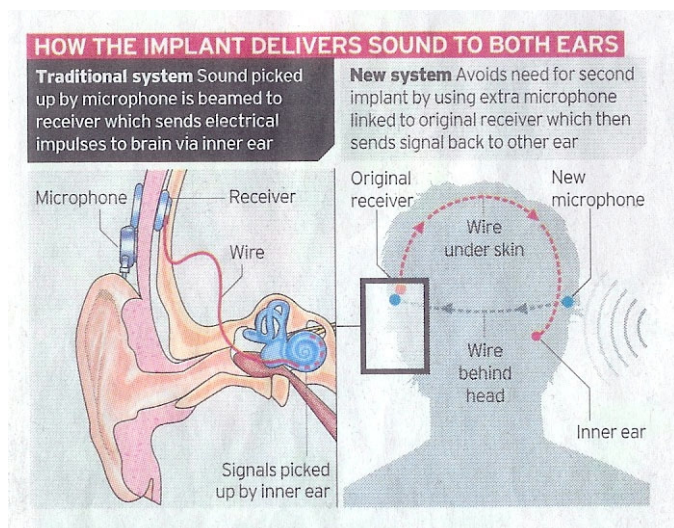
The new system means that both ears can be stimulated from just one internal receiver.

Julie Brinton, joint head of the centre, said: "Some adults and children have already received two implants, with one in each ear.

"The difference with the device being used today is that, although information is delivered to each ear, there is only one implant."

Although around 40 of these devices have been implanted in patients in Europe, this is the first of its kind in the UK, the centre said.

The four-hour operation was carried out at Southampton General Hospital by Mike Pringle, Consultant Otolaryngologist based at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth.



Mr Pringle said: "This is different to other types of implant as it is one implant going into both ears.

"It's not unusual for children to have two implants, one in each ear, but adults usually just have one.

"This type of device has an internal receiver/stimulator with two wires. One will go directly into one inner ear and the other will go over the top of the head, under the scalp, to reach the other inner ear.

"There will be a microphone on

each ear collecting sounds from both sides.

"The advantage is that it allows adults to have bilateral hearing. Having two ears working makes it easier to hear in noisy backgrounds and also helps with localisation, or hearing where sounds are coming from.

"Also, because there is only one processor and one internal receiver this makes this device significantly cheaper than two separate implants."

The recipient of the implant, who wishes to remain anonymous, has

been deaf all her life and used hearing aids until now.

Early tests showed the system was working but it will be four weeks before they can be sure.

Dr Cullington said: "Following the surgery she will need to wait for four to six weeks before the device is tuned and she can begin to have auditory rehabilitation to encourage her listening with the new sensation she will experience."

Reproduced from: The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 28th August 2010, www.telegraph.co.uk

Cleaning hearing aid moulds

A group of volunteers have tested various containers in the ultrasound cleaners, and the glass jam jars have proved the most practical for cleaning moulds in the hearing help sessions.

This is a reminder about procedures for cleaning moulds.

When you use jars in the ultrasound cleaner, please make sure the mould is fully covered in water and the

water inside and outside the jar is about 3/4 of the way up (not right to the top to prevent spills).

Each mould must be kept separate to avoid cross-infection. It is important to do one mould at a time even when they are both from the same client.

Pegs used for identifying each jar should be cleaned with the jars in the sterilising solution after use.

Volunteers must wash their hands between each client and each hearing aid, both to prevent cross infection between service user, and between the volunteer and the service user.

We will still be cleaning moulds in hot water under the tap where ultrasound cleaners are not available.

Thanks to all the team that helped with the testing.

RNID Research report: 'In it together'

The RNID recently published some research into the impact of hearing loss on relationships. The report, called 'In it together' is available in full at www.rnid.org.uk/inittogether
Some of the conclusions included:

- Partners played an instrumental role in making people aware of their hearing loss and were an important source of support
- Partners expected the person with hearing loss to take steps to minimise its impact.
- Partners took basic steps to communicate more effectively, but found it difficult to understand the nature of hearing loss
- Hearing loss had a limited effect on allocation of responsibilities, although in general the hearing partner did most telephoning work
- Couples described how small but important aspects of communication, such as reflections on events, could be lost.
- People with hearing loss and their partners had both curtailed social activities

An Invitation to our
ANNUAL LUNCH
at Cambridge Regional College
Kings Hedges Road
Cambridge CB4 2QT

Monday 1st November 2010

Reception from 12.00 Noon

MENU

Glass of Juice on arrival

Vegetable Soup of the Day

Escalope of Pork with apple and garlic mash and a red wine jus

OR

Thai Vegetable Curry and mushroom pilaf rice

Warm poached fruits and whisky sabayon

Tea or Coffee

Cost: £13.60 per head

**Please complete and return the slip below together with your cheque
to reach us by 15th October**

N.B. Directions to the car park will be sent out with tickets

Offers of raffle prizes would be gratefully received

To: CAMTAD, 8a Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH

Please send me Ticket/s at £13.60 each (cheques payable to CAMTAD please)

I enclose a cheque for £.....**plus** a stamped, addressed envelope for sending me the ticket/s

Please indicate which main course you would like

	Quantity		Quantity
Escalope of Pork with apple and garlic mash		Thai Vegetable Curry	

Name :.....

Address:.....

Any special dietary requirements?

I will bring the following raffle prize.....