

HIGH LEVEL WORK PLAN, STATUS AND MILESTONES: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) 2018 – 2020

ACTIVITY – Implementing the Legislation - CAPTURING PROGRESS Work plan for AAC – high level – refreshed - 2018 - 2020	Status	Milestones to September 2019	Milestones to September 2020
<p>WORK STREAM : LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE: Draw on expertise, build collaboration, facilitate partnership working and drive change to support the implementation of the legislation and enable improvement through AAC Executive Leads for AAC in each NHS Board and the National AAC Advisory Group (NAG).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic linkage and support for AAC through the nominated AAC Executive Leads in each board area. • Visits to boards by the Assisted Communications Team to highlight progress, issues, and barriers. • National Advisory Group continues to provide advice and support. • Engage with Executive Leads to discuss steps for inclusion of AAC in the Equalities and Diversity board reporting. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Round 2 of Health Board visits in January 19. • National Advisory Group (NAG) meets on at least 3 occasions and communicates by other means throughout the year. 	<p>March 2020: Engagement between Board AAC Exec Leads and Equality and Diversity Leads for inclusion of AAC progress within local Equalities and Diversity Reports.</p>
<p>WORK STREAM : COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review of the National AAC advisory group membership and terms of reference (TOR) reviewed. • Develop with service users and practitioners a staged approach to establish a robust model for ongoing capture of service user views. • Ongoing awareness raising through national and local networking, communications, including ministerial engagement and social media alerts. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the NAG TOR in April 2019. • 1st year anniversary of commencement of the legislative duty awareness raising activities during March-May 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2020 – Further review of the NAG TOR. • Boards to update National Advisory Group on local activities to raise awareness of the duty.
<p>WORK STREAM : OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second round of Visits to Health Boards completed, sharing of good practice. • A further refresh of this second high level National AAC work plan with Executive Leads, based on feedback, to develop direct links to be set out in their local board plans. • Local work plans in place in boards to ensure sustained and ongoing improvement to include the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of Equipment and Support; Patient Pathways and Services, and AAC Partnerships and local groups. • National short life working groups (SLWG's) commissioned for AAC on: Equipment Procurement; Data and Evidence; Learning; Assessment. • To continue to work with National procurement, AAC specialists and other partners to improve processes and consistency of evidence of expenditure on communication equipment/ contribute to the evidence base. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Round 2 of Health Board visits in January 19. • Establishment of SLWG's and membership completed in July 2019. • Consultation on Scottish Government AAC Work Plan in August 2019. • September 19 -Scoping the Possible Report by NSS shared with Data and Evidence SLWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn 2019-Boards requested to share information and update on their plans for the GPF on AAC Assessment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum AAC data set to be developed and agreed (Recommendation 2 from a Right to Speak¹). • To commission an exercise by National Services Scotland (NSS) to scope what existing systems are available to generate routine data (Scoping the Possible). • Boards continue to share good practice through national and local networks. • A good practice framework (GPF) on AAC Assessment to be developed, driven at board level. 			
<p>WORK STREAM : Policy and Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year on Progress report and future plans to continue to review any impact of the legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A narrative detailing the contribution of work taken forward by NHS, to be drafted by boards, describing any impact this is having. • Assistive Communication Team provide information and advice on AAC to support cross cutting policy work. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year on progress report in development for release in summer 2019. • Inclusion of information on the legislative duty and supporting tools within the Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families Guidance in April 2019. • Inclusion of information on the legislative duty and supporting tools included within the revision of the Charter of Patients’ Rights in June 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2020 – Assisted Communication Team to update on the communication question submitted for consideration of the Census 2021.
<p>WORK STREAM : WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Development and Learning opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To make resources for AAC online learning available on TURAS. ◦ To commission Short Life Working Group on AAC Learning. ◦ To work with NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Education Scotland and other partners to ensure widespread access to learning resources, in local collaboration with Health Boards, Learning and Education and Equalities and Diversity Leads, Education Scotland and other partners, such as Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), to promote and signpost to TURAS, as the preferred point of access for online learning on AAC to support boards in evidencing uptake of learning. • Identify examples of learning innovation and good practice to share across Scotland. • To consider the opportunity for the development of networks that sustain and advance practice to underpin the provision of support. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2019- Online learning opportunities ‘An Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication’ went live on the new NES learning platform, TURAS. • Making Communication Even Better (current version) of the learning resource is now in the Equalities and Diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on numbers taking up the AAC Learning opportunities to be gathered and shared across the national advisory group. • Evidence to be provided from existing networks (AAC Leads network, and AAC Link Therapists network) of sharing innovation to support good practise.

¹ A Right to Speak - Supporting Individuals who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication- <https://www2.gov.scot/resource/0039/00394629.pdf>

		<p>area on the TURAS learning platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2019- First meeting of the SLWG on AAC Learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Leads to consider the added value of such networks, and the benefits of supporting their contribution through an annual work plan, to support further progress in practise advancement. NES in discussion with SSSC to engage them in the SLWG, reaching the wider workforce.
<p>WORK STREAM : MONITORING AND EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a Year 1 Progress Report, since commencement of the legislation. To explore with AAC Executive Leads what is feasible in capturing evidence of how the legislative duty is being met. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer 2019 – One year progress report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the NSS ‘Scoping the possible’ report for next steps on what is feasible in evidencing the duty is being met by Health Boards.