

## *About us*

<https://communicationmatters.org.uk/about-us/>

### **What we do**

We work all over the UK to support people of all ages who use **AAC**.

**AAC** is used to mean many different ways to help someone communicate. It could be simple things like pointing, signing, writing or drawing. It could also be using a special device like a machine that ‘speaks’ words for you.

### **Our vision**

“A world where all individuals have a right to a “voice” through the provision of equipment and ongoing support services.”

We want people to get the right equipment and support so they can have a voice.

### **Our mission**

“Communication Matters values people who use any form of communication and promotes the individual’s right to participate in all aspects of life by using their most appropriate means of communication to express their thoughts, feelings, needs and desires.”

We want people to be able to join in and communicate with other people.

## **Who we are**

Communication Matters is a company and a charity. We are run by a Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is all the Trustees who meet together to make decisions about Communication Matters.

## **Membership**

We have more than 400 associate members. They come from all over the UK.

## **Join us!**

You can join us as:

- an individual person
- a family
- a group
- a company

Some AAC users and family members can join us for free.

## **Our Money**

Most of our money comes from our members and events. Some people give us extra money and we use this to help people come to our conference.

We get some money from organisations. We use this for different projects. For example we got money from:

- The John Ellerman Foundation to help us tell more people about Communication Access UK
- The Big Lottery Fund Awards for All to help us train people
- The Foyle Foundation to build our website
- The National Lottery Fund Community Fund to help our members and other disabled young people

## **What is Communication Matters?**

We are a charity that covers the whole of the UK.

The Trustees who run the organisation do not get paid for their work.

## **Organisations we are part of**

Communication Matters is a part of some other groups and organisations:

- The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative communication (ISAAC). This is the group for organisations like ours all around the world
- The Communication Consortium. This is a group of organisations in the UK who are interested in helping people communicate better
- West Yorkshire CANN (Children's Additional Needs Network). This is a group of organisations that work with families and children with additional needs in West Yorkshire