

## *JOIN US*

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

Please join us and become an associate member.

We have about 400 associate members in the UK.

We are part of a worldwide group of organisations that work to help AAC users.

**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.

Part of the money you pay each year goes towards the worldwide group.

Our members choose the **Board of Trustees**.

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

Members have to keep to our **Code of Conduct**.

A **Code of Conduct** is a set of rules about how members must behave.

We have a complaints policy which explains how people can make a complaint.

Each year you will get three issues of the Communication Matters Journal.

Members can also get other newsletters and magazines.

Each year a few AAC users are able to join us for free.

## **Different types of membership**

### **1. Individual Members**

Individual members are people who have joined for themselves. They get:

- The Communication Matters Journal 3 times a year
- A monthly email newsletter
- Information about new devices and equipment that help people to communicate
- A cheaper rate to go to information days
- A cheaper rate to go to study days
- A cheaper rate to go to the ISAAC conference
- A password so you can get into the members part of the website

- A chance to say what Communication Matters should do in the future

You will also be a member of the worldwide group of organisations that help AAC users.

Individual members pay £69 a year.

## **2. AAC users and their families**

AAC users and their families, get all the same things as ordinary members.

They pay £22 a year.

## **3. Full-time students**

Full-time students get all the same things as ordinary members.

They pay £23 a year.

## **4. Retired people**

Retired people get all the same things as ordinary members.

They pay £51 a year.

## **5. Communication Matters Organisation Membership**

Organisations can be a member of Communication Matters. Organisations get all the same things as individual members plus:

- They can talk about their organisation at our information days
- They can present their work at our conferences
- They can have an advert in our newsletters
- They can have an advert on our website
- They can have more than one copy of our journal
- They can send more than one person to our conferences and other events
- They can go to the ISAAC conference at a cheaper rate

Organisations pay between £189 and £528 a year. This depends on how many people from the organisation can go to the conference and other events.

### **3. ISAAC Corporate Members**

ISAAC is the worldwide group of organisations that help AAC users.

ISAAC Corporate Members are companies that have joined the worldwide group of organisations. These companies get

all the same things as organisations that have joined Communication Matters, plus:

- A chance to advertise in the ISAAC newsletter and website
- A cheaper rate to go to ISAAC conferences

ISAAC Corporate Members pay £710 a year.

#### **4. ISAAC Institutional Members**

These are official organisations that have joined ISAAC.

ISAAC institutional members get:

- All the same things as organisations that have joined communication matters, plus
- Two extra cheap-rate places at the ISAAC conference

ISAAC Institutional Members pay £355 a year.

#### **HOW DO I JOIN?**

1. You have to download and print the application form
2. Choose what type of membership you want. You can choose from:

- a. Individual Membership
- b. Communication Matters Organisation Membership
- c. AAC user or their family
- d. Full time student
- e. Retired person
- f. ISAAC Institutional Member
- g. ISAAC Corporate Member

### 3. Think about what journals and newsletters you want

All members get the Communication Matters journal 3 times a year.

If you want you can also get:

- A newsletter called “Augmentative and Alternative Communication Journal”
- The newsletter of AGOSCI. This is the Australian organisation for people who are interested in AAC
- The newsletter of the Israeli organisation for people who are interested in AAC

### 4. Send your application form

You can pay by:

- Bank transfer online – our bank details are on the form
- Cheque made payable to Communication Matters

Your yearly membership goes from 1 January to 31 December.

If you join part-way through the year, you will get all copies of the Communication Matters journal and any other journals you subscribe to, for the whole year.

If you have any questions, please ring 0113 343 1533 or email us at [admin@communicationmatters.org.uk](mailto:admin@communicationmatters.org.uk)

## **Code of Conduct**

Members have to keep to our Code of Conduct. This is a set of rules about how members must behave.

The Code of conduct includes these rules for companies and organisations:

- Organisations and companies must be truthful when they say what work they do.
- Organisations and companies must not give wrong information about other people's services.

- They must only say that they give people a **clinical assessment** if they have the right qualifications to do this.

A **clinical assessment** is where a professional works with you to work out the best ways for you to communicate

- They must agree to find the best way of helping people who have difficulty with speaking and use other ways to communicate.
- They must keep to the law.
- They must have the right insurance.

## **Complaints Policy**

Communication Matters takes all complaints seriously.

If you want to complain you should:

1. Contact the other person and see if you can sort out the problem
2. If you are still not happy you should:
  - a. If it is a company or organisation – contact the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA)
  - b. If it is a health professional – contact Health Professions Council (HPC)



c. Otherwise, contact our Trustees

3. The Board of Trustees will meet and decide what to do next.
4. The Trustees could stop someone being a member of Communication Matters.