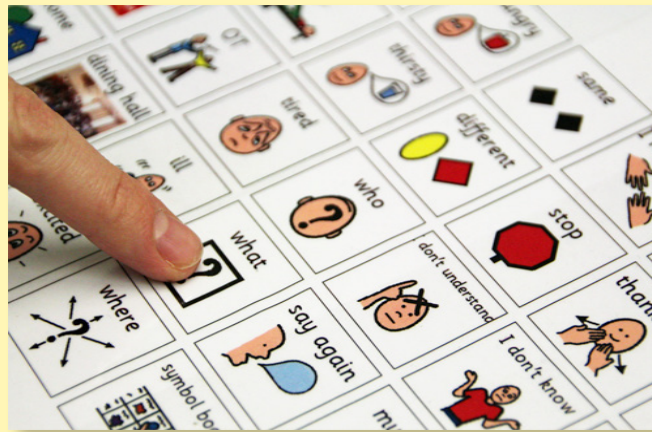


Communication Matters

Clinical Decision-Making Applied to Symbol Communication Aids Study Day



Tuesday 5 May 2020

Irwin Mitchell, 40 Holborn Viaduct, LONDON, EC1N 2PZ

These two one-day practical workshops (Manchester or London) will be informed by the findings from a recently funded UK research project (I-ASC: Identifying Appropriate Symbol communication aids for children who are non-speaking).

Costs: £90 members, £130 non-members and £50 family members.



Summary

Communication Matters is delighted to present our first Clinical Decision-Making Applied to Symbol Communication Aids Study Days in collaboration with the I-ASC project team. Delegates will be offered an in-depth review of the findings of the research and the potential implications of these findings. The I-ASC Explanatory model was developed as a theoretical interpretation of the research. The model offers a way of conceptualising the complex elements of decision-making in communication aid recommendations. The day will focus on the practical suggestions and solutions that may support AAC decision making.

Delegates will gain first-hand insights and experience of:

- the I-ASC Explanatory Model as a way of conceptualising assessment
- the use of the on-line tools and resources developed from the research findings
- the application of the model to frame assessment processes and how it applies to existing tools and resources

Delegates will have opportunity to apply the decision making model to their own context. This will be achieved through workshop discussion and the opportunity to use the I-ASC tools and resources. Delegates will be provided with an induction on how to best use the freely available I-ASC resources (<https://iasc.mmu.ac.uk>).

Delegates will also be provided with an **I-ASC** workbook as part of the booking fee.

Who is the study day aimed at?

- The day is open to professionals, AAC users and family members.
- The key focus will be children and young people who may benefit from AAC and the assessment /recommendation processes they may experience. Although the original research focused on children and young people, we have received feedback that the theoretical model and resources developed have application to adults.

Proposed learning outcomes:

Delegates will gain first hand insights into UK-informed research and how it can be applied to:

- conceptualising assessment using the I-ASC Explanatory Model of decision-making
- the on-line tools and resources developed from the research findings
- the practicalities of decision-making in local, regional and national contexts



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Provisional Timetable

Overview of the research context and why it is important for AAC service delivery

Theory building – an interactive presentation of:

- the I-ASC methodology (and its application to the recommendation process)
- the I-ASC findings (and their impact on the recommendation process)
- the I-ASC Explanatory Model (and how it might support the recommendation process)

Application of research evidence – an interactive presentation of:

- the I-ASC heuristic (what it means, how it might work for you)
- the I-ASC resources (what they include, how they can be adapted to suit your situation)

Summing up and moving forward – supporting UK service delivery.

Detailed timetable to follow.

These workshops present independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

The National Institute for Health Research Health Services and Delivery Research (NIHR HS&DR) Programme was established to fund a broad range of research. It builds on the strengths and contributions of two NIHR research programmes: the Health Services Research (HSR) programme and the Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) programme, which merged in January 2012. The programme aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence on the quality, access and organisation of health services, including costs and outcomes. The programme will enhance the strategic focus on research that matters to the NHS. The HS&DR Programme is funded by the NIHR with specific contributions from the CSO in Scotland, NISCHR in Wales and the HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/hsdr

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funded by the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Since its establishment in April 2006, the NIHR has transformed research in the NHS. It has increased the volume of applied health research for the benefit of patients and the public, driven faster translation of basic science discoveries into tangible benefits for patients and the economy, and developed and supported the people who conduct and contribute to applied health research. The NIHR plays a key role in the Government's strategy for economic growth, attracting investment by the life-sciences industries through its world-class infrastructure for health research. Together, the NIHR people, programmes, centres of excellence and systems represent the most integrated health research system in the world. For further information, visit the NIHR website (www.nihr.ac.uk).

Identifying appropriate symbol communication for children who are non-speaking: enhancing clinical decision making

NIHR: HSDR 14/70/153

Speakers

All contributors from the extended team are listed below. They will contribute at either the Manchester or London events. Each contributor will take a different aspect of the I-ASC research, its findings and their application to practice. The AAC user and family member -voice was key throughout all aspects of the project. This will be evident across the themes presented on both days.

Helen Whittle

Helen Whittle is a speech and language therapist who has worked in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) since 1991 when she joined the team in an AAC assessment centre. Helen is the current Chair of Communication Matters (www.communicationmatters.org.uk). She has worked with young adults with head injuries and also those with progressive disorders and those who have had a Stroke. She has worked in a number of Special Schools and had time working for one of the suppliers of symbol-based communication solutions. Most recently, she was as a lecturer in the Speech Pathology Department at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Working at MMU enabled her involvement in research projects, for example, developing online training materials for NHS Education Scotland in the field of AAC for support workers. For the last 3 years she has been involved in the I-ASC Project exploring the decisions around children's AAC systems.

Janice Murray

Janice Murray is Professor of Communication Disability & AAC at Manchester Metropolitan University. Finishing her PhD in 2001, she has been Head of Speech & Language Therapy and is currently the Communication Disability Research lead within the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care. She is a former Chair of Communication Matters (www.communicationmatters.org.uk), and of ISAAC Council (www.isaac-online.org), and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists in 2016. Janice is a founding member of an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology formed in 2017. She has worked in practice as a specialist Speech and Language Therapist (AAC). She teaches undergraduate and post-graduate students in her professional discipline, including topics on cerebral palsy, atypical language acquisition, speech processing and literacy. She is currently working on several research projects concerning aided language development, literacy & AAC and was Chief Investigator for a project on clinical decision making in AAC (NIHR HS&DR: Project 14/70/153: Identifying appropriate symbol communication aids for children who are non-speaking: enhancing clinical decision making).

Simon Judge

Simon Judge is the service lead of the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team and a Clinical Scientist. The Barnsley Assistive Technology Team is directly commissioned by NHS England to provide specialised AAC and environmental control services throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region. Simon has been intensively involved in the assistive technology community since the beginning of his career. Simon is an honorary research fellow with the University of Sheffield, Centre for Assistive Technology and Connected Healthcare and an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and an honorary researcher with MMU for the I-ASC project. Simon was a co-applicant and co-investigator on the I-ASC project focusing particularly on aspects of communication aid design.

Speakers

Stuart Meredith

Stuart Meredith uses a communication aid for daily interactions. In the past, he was employed by a communication aid supplier to be part of assessments, offer training and mentoring. He has volunteered in local specialised colleges to work as a mentor and role model to younger people who use communication aids. He has previously run his own on-line business. He has been a committee member and chair of a number of disability related organisations and was a school governor. Currently, he is a Board member for a national specialized AAC service. Stuart was involved as a co-researcher on the I-ASC project.

Liz Moulam

Liz Moulam is the parent of a young woman with cerebral palsy who uses a communication aid for daily interactions. Over the last 20 years Liz has both volunteered and taken paid work in the field of AAC, she has a BA (Hons) in Psychology and completed post graduate studies in Child Development. From 2015 to 2019 Liz was a Public Involvement Co-Researcher on the Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication Aids for Children who are non-speaking project: Clinical Decision Making (I-ASC). Co-Researchers were equal members of the project team, involved from the concept stages of the research bid, through every stage of the research process, including and not limited to methodological design, data collection, data analysis, developing tools and resources and from the start of the project Liz lead with Stuart Meredith on project dissemination.

Yvonne Lynch

Yvonne Lynch is an Assistant Professor in Speech and Language Therapy in Trinity College Dublin. She is a registered Speech and Language Therapist with many years clinical experience working with children and adults with physical and multiple disabilities. She was a post-doctoral Research Fellow on the I-ASC study, a major NIHR funded research project examining clinical decision-making in AAC. Her research and clinical interests include AAC, telehealth, service delivery in speech and language therapy.

Nicky Randall

Nicky Randall is an Assistive Technology Specialist Speech and Language Therapist with the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team. Nicky has worked for the team since 2015 and her role is to work with individuals using the Barnsley AT team service to assess and provide appropriate electronic assistive technology. Nicky qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 2010 and initially worked in a community team for adults with long-term neurological conditions and a community stroke service. In 2015 Nicky began a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) internship, which included contributing to the development of the CARLA computerised receptive language assessment. Nicky was an honorary researcher with MMU on the I-ASC project and carried out data collection with people who use symbol communication aids and analysis of these data with a particular focus on family involvement in decision making.



BOOKING FORM

Clinical Decision-Making Applied to Symbol Communication Aids

Tuesday 5 May 2020 - 40 Holborn Viaduct, London

Name: _____ Role: _____

Organisation: _____

Address (including Postcode): _____

Tel: _____ Email (must be given): _____

I heard about this event from: _____

Dietary Requirements: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other _____

Delegate Fee (includes lunch and refreshments; no VAT payable):

☐ £130 not a current member of Communication Matters

☐ £198 delegate fee + Individual Membership of Communication Matters for Jan to Dec 2020

☐ **£90 current member of Communication Matters - membership number: MB**_____

☐ £70 AAC user / family who is not a current member of Communication Matters

☐ I will be bringing a Personal Support Assistant

Name: _____ ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other _____

☐ I have never been a member - I wish to apply for 1 year's free membership

☐ **£50 AAC user / family who is a current member of Communication Matters - membership number: MB**_____

☐ I will be bringing a Personal Support Assistant

Name: _____ ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other _____

Contact us to check your membership status or number, or to join Communication Matters.

Payment:

☐ I enclose a **cheque** made payable to 'Communication Matters'

☐ I enclose a **Purchase Order** document; please invoice me

☐ I am paying by **online banking** (quoting my name as reference) to:

Account Name: ISAAC UK/Communication Matters | Sort Code: 30-99-55 | Account No. 00195792

Data Protection: Your data will be stored in a secure database which will be accessed by Communication Matters personnel only. We may contact you in matters related to the event. Please read our full Privacy Policy: <https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/privacy-policy>.

I AGREE / DISAGREE to Communication Matters sending me literature on courses, events and other relevant information (delete as appropriate).

Cancellation: Notify in writing by 5 April for a refund (less 10% admin fee); no refunds thereafter.

Please send this form (with cheque or purchase order, if appropriate) to:

Communication Matters (Study Day), 3rd Floor, University House, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT

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