

**QS11 There must be close liaison between health and education teams, including the exchange of written information relating to the use of the child's personal radio aid system.**

Although currently in many areas the education service provides radio aid systems rather than health, it is vital that any plans to change hearing aids are shared in advance with Teachers of the Deaf to ensure:

- o compatibility of devices
- o no waste of resources e.g redundant DAI shoes
- o time for scheduling of rebalancing systems for optimum benefit

The Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) works well in many areas as a way to ensure close collaboration between health and education.

Joint training opportunities foster collaborative working as well as sharing and updating important information.

### **References MCHAS guideline**

### **NAIP example (below)**

## Good practice example from the Nottingham Auditory Implant Centre

- NAIP works closely with local professionals as part of their Outreach programme of support and visits.
- In addition to audiology appointments, joint visits by a NAIP key worker-either a toddler or adult, with local professionals are made jointly to home/ nursery etc at 1week, 1mth, 3mths, 6mths, 9mths, 1yr, 16mth, 20mth, 2yrs, 28mths, 32mths, 3years, 4yrs and 5 years post implant. After this time, staff are still available to answer queries and make visits on request.
- Local professionals often ask NAIP for advice about fitting personal radio systems. These can be fitted jointly on request, either on Outreach or within the clinic.
- Feedback and recommendations from audiology on MAPPING progress is a key criteria. [Factors such as appointment attendance, data logging information, MAP size would be considered].
- Information is fed back through the issue of an audiology report after every appointment and through key worker reports.
- Local staff can contact the programme by email or by phone to talk through specific concerns or requests. NAIP has a qualified educational audiologist on the team who takes a lead in this area.
- NAIP alert local professionals to upgrades and technology changes for processors that may affect radio system use and type. This information is given directly during outreach visits, in copy letters to local professionals when families are informed about forthcoming upgrades.
- NAIP provide hands on training and technology updates at Ropewalk House on a termly basis via the Professional Development Educational Audiologist Special Interest Group. These meetings provide direct access to Manufacturers, explain NAIP policies and have invited key speakers. eg Imran Mulla and Wendy McCracken on FM and Pre-school use, Stuart Whyte on the FM Working Party.
- The sessions are free with the proviso that staff who attend cascade back to their teams.
- At the annual NAIP Training day for all local professionals, –hands on training is provided by the implant manufacturers.

## **Projects**

2014/15 NAIP audit FM use in our CI population. This was carried out with the help of local Educational Audiologists and highlighted the fact that only 10% of the pre school population had access to a personal radio system. [published in Batod magazine, March 2016]

2016 – NAIP project on the use of the Cochlear Mini Microphone with the pre-school population of CI users.-awaiting publication

2016 An advice leaflet on the use of the MM with very young children was produced and recently updated for the MM2+. This is available on the NAIP website and is issued to all families and to local professionals on request. The MM/MM2+ is routinely set up and demonstrated on outreach pathway visits. Successful use of the MM has encouraged some services to offer personal radio systems at Nursery.