

What is happening in the AAC world

By Jill Clarke, person who uses AAC and AAC Campaigner

In 2012 the Scottish Government published a report on AAC called a Right to Speak (see <http://www.gov.scot/resource/0039/00394629.pdf>) to make sure that people understand about AAC and to make sure that there is enough funding in Scotland for people who uses AAC.

2012 to 2015 there was a campaign and then a report called Now Hear Me. During this campaign there were a lot of events and steering groups to make sure that what Scottish Government said in the report is happening and to make sure that Scotland is better for AAC users.

After 3 years of hard work and a lot of campaigning AAC was made the law in April 2016 but the law hasn't started yet. So there is a lot of groups like the AAC Collaborative. The AAC Collaborative is made up with people from different organisations such as Bobath Scotland, MND Scotland, Royal College of Speech Therapist and many more. The role of this group is to make sure that everything that needed is in the instructions to people about law. There are a lot of instructions needed to make the law work :

- Equipment if someone can't talk or lost their voice that person must get equipment like a Communication device
- Funding – equipment isn't free so without funding no one can get equipment. So there must be funding there for anyone that needs equipment
- Support – support is really important because you can't just give someone a piece of equipment and leave them to it. Someone uses AAC need support from when they try equipment to getting equipment and make sure everything is right for them to communicate
- Time faction – if someone needs a piece of equipment, they shouldn't have to wait for months. They should get it in days!

Do you want to tell government your views on AAC law? Others involved in making the law happen could also hear your views. The AAC Collaborative want to hear more people's views on AAC. We will pass these on to government.

If you do want to tell government what you think – please answer some or all of these questions. Please tell us other things instead if you want.

- 1. Do you use AAC to communicate – or a relative, friend, teacher, support worker of some who uses AAC?**
- 2. What do you think of things like;**
 - The assessment process?
 - How long things took?
 - Funding for your AAC?
 - Support you get in learning to use your device?
 - Training people you communicate with get so they know how to help you communicate?
 - Support you get from your SLT and others?
 - Support you get when your equipment breaks down?
 - What happens when you need a replacement machine?
 - Did you have to buy your own equipment?
 - Did you get speech and language therapy support to use your equipment?

Send your answers to the person who gave you this article – or if you don't know that – to Anne.Braekkan@capability-scotland.org.uk – by Tuesday 11th November.