

Northumberland Sensory Support Service

Radio Aid System allocation

“Every child with a hearing loss should be considered as a potential candidate for provision with a personal FM system as part of their amplification package, in line with a written policy on candidacy.”

Quality Standard 1 NDCS FM provision

The Northumberland Sensory Support Service works in partnership with Freeman Hospital in the provision and maintenance of Radio Aid Systems. Freeman Hospital is responsible for the provision of the receiving equipment which sits on the hearing impaired child or young person. Northumberland Sensory Support Service is responsible for the transmission equipment used by the teacher or parent.

Candidacy

Northumberland Sensory Support Service supports the consideration of provision of a Radio Aid System to all bilaterally hearing impaired children or young people, irrespective of; age, type of hearing loss, degree of hearing loss, additional Special Educational Needs or language/ communication/ social and emotional skills.

Provision is decided following an assessment of appropriate criteria including the acoustic environments the hearing impaired child or young person encounters and their level of functional hearing in noise and over distance.

Procedure

The decision to provide a Radio Aid System is made jointly by Freeman Hospital and Northumberland Sensory Support Service. Equipment is always trialled in the first instance in order to assess its impact on the child's ability to hear in noise/over distance.

If it is proved to be of benefit, receivers are provided by Freeman Hospital, and the transmitter provided, on long term loan, by the Sensory Support Service with an agreed expectation that it is returned when no longer in use/ the family moves away/ when the young person leaves school. To ensure that no student is disadvantaged on transition to HE/FE the Service requires equipment to be returned only once new assistive listening devices are in situ.