



# Northumberland County Council

Northumberland Inclusive Education Services - Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT)

## **SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICE**

### Radio Aid System allocation

*Every deaf child should be considered as a potential candidate for provision with a personal radio aid as part of their amplification package, at first hearing aid fitting. **NDCS, Quality Standards for the Use of Personal Radio Aids, 2017***

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 receiving equipment for a child or young person wearing **hearing aids**. Northumberland Sensory Support Service is responsible for provision of the receiving equipment for a child or young person wearing **cochlear implant processors**. Northumberland Sensory Support Service is also responsible for the transmission equipment used by the teacher or family.

### 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 trialled in the first instance to assess its impact on the child's ability to hear in noise and 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.