

Talkabout AAC

Development of an online AAC User forum

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Why do we need another AAC User forum?

Overview of previous and current social media / forums

- CM AAC user group (now defunct)
- CM AAC forum
- CM RIN (Research Involvement Network)
- 1Voice member forum
- Facebook pages
- Local AAC user groups
- Any more?

What we have learned

- Different platforms for different purposes, eg, social networking vs user engagement
- AAC users and families need to feel secure, unintimidated by professional presence
- Consultation must benefit service users
- Must be user led but well supported
- Accessibility!

Opportunities available -

- Improved technology, connectivity and accessibility
- Increased awareness and use of social media
- DfE funding opportunity!

DfE National Prospectus Grant

Two year project providing three strands of activity

- Provide clear guidance to service users, families, providers and commissioners on the key elements of an effective AAC service
- Tackle under-developed areas of the AAC market
- **Effectively engage AAC users in service development/review**

ACE Centre delivery in partnership with Communication Matters and 1Voice

All strands overseen by steering groups and Project Board

Consultation on the need for an online AAC user forum

Formation of AAC User engagement steering group with representation from project partners and volunteers

1Voice events

Communication Matters Conference 2013

CM and 1Voices Perspectives

Feedback challenges and decisions!

Conflicting expectations

Limited resources and capacity

Decision taken to pilot walled garden forum for specific age range: 0– 25 years?

Discussions with Beaumont College on developing their model (Inbook) to create a pilot site

Overview of pilot phase to date

Outline of key features on the platform - Groups, Navigation, off topic areas

Key documents – Registration, Code of conduct, How To Use,

Moderation and management implications

Starter questions for discussion

Design considerations, branding

Technical input from Beaumont College

Over to you Can you help?

Launch Pilot 1 October, Full launch early January 2015

Promote Talkabout AAC

Volunteers for pilot stage – AAC users and their families/supporters –

- age 19+, 13-19, Under 13's

Any suggestions for further development?

SPREAD THE WORD!

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