

PROJECTS – HISTORY OF CM

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The history of Communication Matters

Communication Matters is part of ISAAC (the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

ISAAC helps people all around the world who use AAC.

AAC is used to mean different ways to help someone communicate. It could be simple things like pointing, signing, writing or drawing. It could also be using a computer that ‘speaks’ words for you.

Free book

You can download a free History of Communication Matters book here: [Download the History of Communication Matters book \(pdf\)](#)

or order a printed copy from us by emailing admin@communicationmatters.org.uk

Important dates in the history of Communication Matters

EARLY DAYS

In **1978** the International Project on Communication Aids for the Speech Impaired (IPCAS) was formed.

This project helped people who were interested in AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

ISAAC

In 1985, the International Society for Augmentation and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) was set up.

In 1988 ISAAC (UK) was officially launched at the House of Commons by Ray Michie MP.

Clive Thursfield was the first chair of Communication Matters.

In spring 1993, the Government started work on Communication Aids for Children (ICAC).

This year Communication Matters' newsletter was changed into a journal. A journal has longer articles.

The new set of leaflets

In 1997 we produced a full set of leaflets about Communication Matters and AAC.

We also created our jigsaw piece logo.

1 Voice Organisation

In 2000, 2 members organised a family-friendly weekend event. This was the start of the 1 Voice organisation.

Also in 2000 we:

- Set up an award for AAC users
- Changed how we give small amounts of money to help certain people

Meanwhile, **Scope** had a campaign to make sure all communication aid users get good equipment, training and support.

Scope is an organisation that works to make things better for disabled people.

Our 21st birthday

In 2006 we had a party for our 21st birthday.

Our research project

In 2010 we started the first part of our **research** project.

Research is where we look into something and write a report.

We also redesigned our website and started on Twitter.

Moving office

In 2015 the office moved from Edinburgh to Leeds and the staff changed.