



*More than just talking...*

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Member and friend,

I hope you are well and adapting to the challenges that these uncertain times present to us all.

I am writing to you personally, as I felt it was appropriate to inform you that unfortunately Communication Matters, like many charities, is facing financial difficulties. The principal reason we can provide the services we do as a charity is due to membership payments and the small 'profit' generated from people attending Study Days and the Conference. As we have had to cancel both the Conference and the Study Days, we are now using our reserves.

If we continue as we have done historically, then it is likely that we would cease to exist at some point in the second half of 2021.

We have a 3-pronged plan to ensure this does not happen:

1. Applying for grants aimed to help charities through these difficult times.
2. Doing some virtual events which should be cheaper to run and hopefully will still raise some modest revenue.
3. With reluctance, asking our members if they feel able to make a one-off donation to ensure that we can continue to operate. We have 190 members and if say 50% were able to contribute £10 that would raise £950. Please do not feel under any obligation to donate. We are painfully aware of the fact that COVID-19 will cause financial issues for many of our members. But if you are able to donate, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/communicationmatters> today.

Your money will help us continue to: run our website; host remote support groups for AAC users; produce our journal which gives useful advice and support to families and others about technology and communication; explore virtual events; and provide regular weekly updates about free resources and online training opportunities via our online AAC Forum.

No amount is too small!

If you are able to make a one-off donation, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/communicationmatters>

**COMMUNICATION MATTERS | 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR, UNIVERSITY HOUSE | UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS | LEEDS | LS2 9JT**

Tel: 0113 343 1533 admin@communicationmatters.org.uk www.communicationmatters.org.uk

ISAAC (UK) | UK Chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Registered Office: ISAAC (UK), Garbutt & Elliott, Triune Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9GZ

Registered in England & Wales No. 01965474 | Registered Charity No. 327500

If you are able to set up a monthly recurring donation, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/communicationmatters>

If you aren't able to donate, you can still help in other ways: Firstly, please share this message with your friends and family. Secondly, what about starting your own fundraising page on JustGiving? It is easy to do and there are many challenges you can set yourself in lockdown to help raise funds for us. You can find out more at:

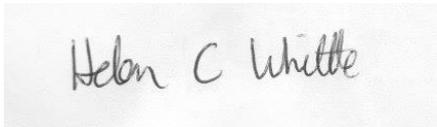
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tips/fundraising-page-toolkit>

Rest assured we remain 110% committed to navigating our charity through these difficult times, so we can continue to support our members and the wider AAC community and in due course hopefully hold another conference (when appropriate) where we can all:

- a) Appreciate one another's company and support
- b) Ensure that the best AAC knowledge and technical help is available for our members
- c) Enjoy the conference dinner and dance in fancy dress!

Thank you for your help.

Kind Regards,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen C Whittle".

Helen Whittle (Chair of Communication Matters, on behalf of the Board of Trustees)