

Communication Matters – Communication Clubs

Supporting local opportunities for AAC users



Communication Matters is delighted to be able to promote and support this new venture with funding from National Lottery England. **Communication Clubs** are about connecting with other Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users, having opportunities to socialise and meet friends and work together (peer support).

AIM:

Getting together to develop communication skills for AAC users.

WHAT ARE COMMUNICATION CLUBS:

Communication Clubs provide time and space to get together with other AAC users.

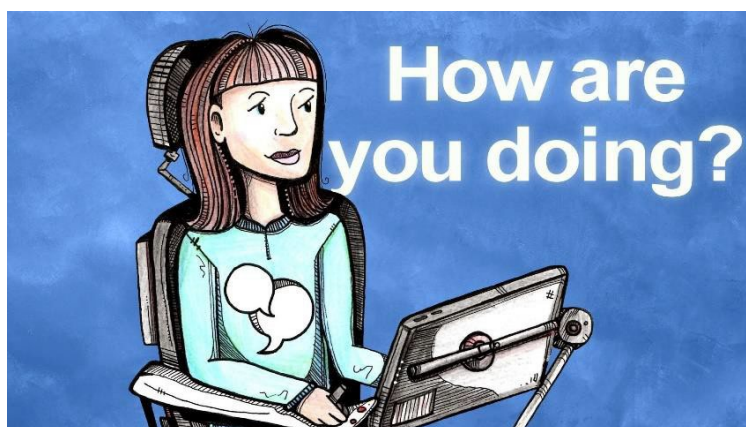
A Communication Club can be at any time of day that works for the group. For example, you could meet every other Wednesday from 10.00-11.30am, or another day during the week, or you may decide to meet early evening or on a weekend. You can decide how often you would like to meet, for example, every two weeks, once a month, and so on. Communication Clubs can take place in a local village hall, at a school or college, or in any other suitable venue.

During this time, the group can decide what they would like to do over the next few weeks or months and Communication Matters can provide a range of resources and support.

The Communication Clubs can be supported by teachers, speech and language therapists, parents and AAC qualified mentors who have completed the Level 1 in Mentoring qualification.

(We are also able to provide travel costs for anyone attending the clubs (subject to funding). A claim form will need to be completed and receipts provided for trains or taxis, more information is available upon request.)

A CM Communication Club pack will be provided and will include how to do a risk assessment, templates for planning and communications, and top tips for setting up and facilitating a club session.



OPPORTUNITIES:

Suggested themes and topics for discussion and activities include:

- Communication skills
- Skills for independent living
- Having a good conversation
- Directing others
- Asserting independence
- Remote communication
- Organising own AAC equipment

There are also opportunities to work together with an option for individuals to gain a recognised qualification (NCFE Entry Level 2 or Entry Level 3 Award in Personal & Social Development). We can provide more information and guidance as needed. The choice of units include (although you do not need to do all of them):

- Healthy living
- Making the most of leisure time
- Developing yourself
- Social relationships
- Dealing with problems in daily life
- Interpersonal communication skills

In addition, we would very much welcome the contribution of a range of skills and interests from the AAC users attending the clubs, so together, you can choose what you would like to do.

If you wish to run a Communication Club, please contact us to chat through the options, so we can make sure that we send you the most appropriate resources. We will then keep in contact with you over the next few weeks to see how the Communication Club is progressing.

With everyone's permission, we would love to have some photos and a report from your group.

For more information please contact:

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