



# Why Our Futures?

**March 2026**

**Beth Moulam  
Helen Hewson**

# Our Futures 2023

- 1. What education and/or training do we as AAC users want or need to fulfil our potential?**
- 2. How should this be delivered?**

**Career development  
and workplace skills**

**Opportunities  
Practical skills**

**Leadership at home  
and work**

**Self Advocacy  
Leading a team**

**AAC and Technology**

**Owning our tech  
Programming  
Troubleshooting  
Maintenance**

**Personal development**

**Mental Health  
Funding  
Rights**

**Personal Relationships**

**Home and family  
Workplace  
Socially**

**Basic Skills**

**Literacy  
Numeracy  
Life Skills**

**Career development  
and workplace skills**

**Opportunities  
Practical skills**

**Leadership at home  
and work**

**Self Advocacy  
Leading a team**

**AAC and Technology**

**Owning our tech  
Programming  
Troubleshooting  
Maintenance**

**Personal development**

**Mental Health  
Funding  
Rights**

**Personal Relationships**

**Home and family  
Workplace  
Socially**

**Basic Skills**

**Literacy  
Numeracy  
Life Skills**

# ISAAC (UK) Charitable objects

1. RESEARCH

2. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF AAC USERS

3. PUBLICATION AND EXCHANGE OF AAC INFORMATION

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNIQUES OR TREATMENTS INCLUDING AAC

1. EDUCATION OF MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC

Career development and workplace skills

Leadership at home and work

AAC and Technology

Personal development

Personal Relationships

Basic Skills

# Our Futures 2024

**Do the 2023 findings resonate with others?**

**Prioritise what you think are the 3 most important topics for AAC user's future development**

**Different colour tokens for:**

**AAC users, families/support, professionals, suppliers**

# Our Futures

## 5 Key take aways

Implications for working with AAC users

### 1: Personalisation

The same overall themes from AAC users are consistent.

### 2: Person Centred

What an AAC user thinks and wants may not be what others think they need or want.

### 3: Individualised

What is right for one AAC user may not be right for the next.

# Our Futures

## Key messages

Implications for working with AAC users

### **4: Be open minded**

Understand the AAC user's viewpoint.

### **5: Think outside the box**

Solutions may not be ready made.

**Career development  
and workplace skills**

**Opportunities  
Practical skills**

CAUK, Mentoring, coaching,  
research, presentation skills,  
meetings

**Leadership at home  
and work**

**Self Advocacy  
Leading a team**

Mentoring, coaching, directing,  
Recruiting

**Rights**

**AAC and Technology**

**Owning our tech  
Programming  
Troubleshooting  
Maintenance**

**Personal development**

**Mental Health  
Funding  
Rights**

**Personal Relationships**

**Home and family  
Workplace  
Socially**

**Basic Skills**

**Literacy  
Numeracy  
Life Skills**

# Summary 2023-2025



**“nothing  
about us  
without us”**

**Always valuable to  
understand other  
perspectives and  
associated opportunities**



**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**



# Our Futures Working Group: 2025

- **Beth Moulam (chair)**
- **Helen Hewson**
- **Becky Tyler**
- **Gregor Gilmour**
- **Jamie Preece**

**3 meetings: August, September, October 2025**

# Aims of the working group



## 1. Review data collected, progress and outputs

- 2023 Workshops
  - 2024 Activity and Analysis
  - 2024 CM Membership Survey
  - 2025 Discussions
- 
- 99 participant opportunities

# Aims of the working group



## 1. Review data collected, progress and outputs

- 2023 Workshops
- 2024 Activity and Analysis
- 2024 CM Membership Survey
- 2025 Discussions

## 2. Discuss what's next

## 3. Co-produce a plan to present to The CM Board

**How**  
**What**  
**Where**  
**When**  
**Who**  
**Why**



**Aspiration  
versus  
opportunity**

**High  
expectations  
for all**

**2025  
Led by AAC users**

**What  
we want  
matters**

**The need to  
change  
perceptions**



**RESEARCH: Co-created and co-produced with AAC Users**

# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace

Engaging in CM projects e.g. Research, Mentoring

Practical skills e.g. leaderships & coaching, presentation skills, effective meetings,

Other opportunities e.g. Sharing skills, knowledge & experience, advocacy and influencing

## Leadership (independent living)

Self-advocacy e.g. directing, decision making

Working with PAs e.g. leadership skills, mentoring, coaching, employer responsibilities

## AAC and technology

Ownership of hardware and software e.g. troubleshoot and maintain

Programming e.g. vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text readers, social media, other packages

## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace

Engaging in CM projects e.g. Research, Mentoring

Practical skills e.g. leaderships & coaching, presentation skills, effective meetings,

Other opportunities e.g. Sharing skills, knowledge & experience, advocacy and influencing



# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace

Engaging in CM projects e.g. Research, Mentoring

Practical skills e.g. leaderships & coaching, presentation skills, effective meetings,

Other opportunities e.g. Sharing skills, knowledge & experience, advocacy and influencing

October 2025



# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace

Engaging in CM projects e.g. Research, Mentoring

Practical skills e.g. leaderships & coaching, presentation skills, effective meetings,

Other opportunities e.g. Sharing skills, knowledge & experience, advocacy and influencing



# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace



## Leadership (independent living)

Self-advocacy e.g. directing, decision making

Working with PAs e.g. leadership skills, mentoring, coaching, employer responsibilities

## AAC and technology

Ownership of hardware and software e.g. troubleshoot and maintain

Programming e.g. vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text readers, social media, other packages

## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



## Leadership (independent living)

Self-advocacy e.g. directing, decision making

Working with PAs e.g. leadership skills, mentoring, coaching, employer responsibilities

## AAC and technology

Ownership of hardware and software e.g. troubleshoot and maintain

Programming e.g. vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text readers, social media, other packages

## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



## AAC and technology

Ownership of hardware and software e.g. troubleshoot and maintain

Programming e.g. vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text readers, social media, other packages

## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication

Career  
Development  
and workplace

Leadership  
(independent  
living)

AAC and  
technology

Personal  
development

Relationships



Ownership of  
hardware and  
software e.g.  
troubleshoot and  
maintain

Programming e.g.  
vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text  
readers, social  
media, other  
packages

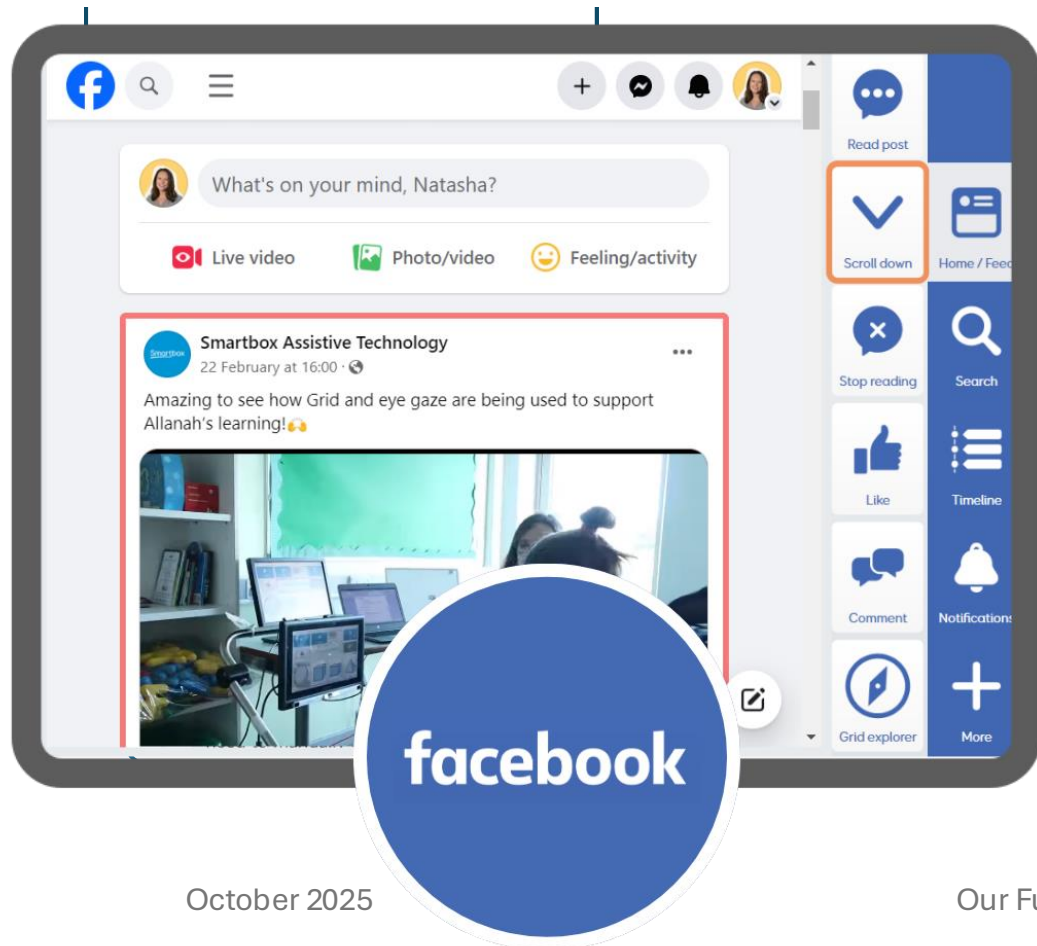
Access to funding

Mental health

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



## AAC and technology

Ownership of hardware and software e.g. troubleshoot and maintain

Programming e.g. vocabulary

Using tech e.g. text readers, social media, other packages

## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

## Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights

Relationships

Friendships

Romantic

# Literacy empowers communication



Relationships

Friendships

Romantic



Connected

Programme of tailored activities

Valued

Belong

Aspirations

# Literacy empowers communication

## Career Development and workplace

Engaging in CM projects e.g. Research, Mentoring

Practical skills e.g. leaderships & coaching, presentation skills, effective meetings,

Other opportunities e.g. Sharing skills, knowledge & experience, advocacy and influencing



## Personal development

Access to funding

Mental health

Rights



# Discussion



NEXT STEPS

Communication  
Matters

AAC community via  
suppliers and  
professionals

Partnership  
opportunities

Something else?