



# A Child's Right to Talk - Symbol communication aids

<b>Time</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 – 10:00-16:00
<b>Place</b>	Atlee Suite, Portcullis House, 1 Parliament St, Westminster, London SW1A 2JR
<b>Contact:</b>	Robert McLaren   robert.mclaren@policyconnect.org.uk Desk phone: 0207 202 8577   Mobile phone 07972262735

**Thank you for joining this event.**

## **Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication aids for children who are non speaking: enhancing clinical decision making NIHR HS&DR Project 14/70/153**

This meeting is a partnership between the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology and Manchester Metropolitan University to disseminate the findings of the I-ASC Project research into symbol communication aids.

Many children benefit from using a communication aid. However, there remains a high level of abandonment of this equipment. The I-ASC project explores the assessment process of matching the child to the most suitable communication aid. This three-year NIHR-funded study has produced findings with important implications for people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and their families, as well as policy makers, practitioners, teachers, researchers and developers.

This daylong event brings together parliamentarians; those who use AAC and family members; professionals working in schools, specialist hubs and local services; researchers and funding councils; and civil servants and civil society organisations to explore and discuss the research findings. The study and its dissemination are aimed at influencing future practice to improve the quality of lives of those children and young people who need AAC and the process of providing resources in this important area.



## Agenda

**10:00-10:15 Keynote**

Rt Hon John Bercow MP (Speaker of the House of Commons)

**10:15-13:00**

**First dissemination talk - policy implications of the research**

Prof. Janice Murray (I-ASC Chief Investigator) and the I-ASC Team\*

**First panel - Policy implications of the research**

Chair: Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE (Crossbench)

Kamini Gadhok MBE (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists)

Prof. Brian Lamb OBE (Achievement for All)

Anne Longfield OBE (Children's Commissioner for England)

Marie Gascoigne (Better Communication CIC)

Sara Bainbridge (NHS Clinical Commissioners)

**13:00-14:00 Lunch reception**

**14:00-14:05 Welcome back address**

Stuart Meredith (I-ASC Co-researcher)

**14:05-15.10 Second dissemination talk**

Prof. Janice Murray and the I-ASC Team

**15.10-16:00 Second panel - clinical implications of the research**

Chair: Prof. Janice Murray (I-ASC Chief Investigator)

Liz Hewson (Parent)

Carolyn Young (NHS England)

Kim Bates (Great Ormond Street Hospital)

Dr Michael Clarke (University College London)

**16:00 Close of conference**



## Background

### About the I-ASC Project

The I-ASC project is a three-year research project to identify appropriate symbol communication aids for children who are non speaking: clinical decision making. The project team's aim is to improve the outcomes for children who need electronic symbol communication aids by focusing on the importance of the assessment process. I-ASC is the first project of its kind in the UK.

The three partners in the project are Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Leeds and Barnsley Assistive Technology Service based at Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. I-ASC has been funded by the National Institute Health Research (NIHR) Health Services and Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is crucial to all NHS research. The project has two PPI Co-Researchers, and has PPI representation on both the Critical Friends group and the NIHR Advisory Board.

### About the APPGAT

The APPGAT is an all-party parliamentary group (APPG) made up of MPs and Peers who are interested in the opportunities presented by assistive and accessible technology. Our co-chairs are Seema Malhotra MP (Labour) and Lord Chris Holmes (Conservative). The group is designed to facilitate discussion between the sector and parliament and make meaningful policy interventions in debates that are relevant to assistive technology. Our mission is to promote policy that takes advantage of technology to make society more inclusive for all. Policy Connect provides the secretariat services for the APPGAT.

### About Policy Connect

Policy Connect is the collaborative cross-party think tank, successfully delivering new policy ideas through research, evidence, political meetings and sector engagement. With no set ideology, we recommend the best approach from facts and data, and help influence policy decisions and law-making. We find the common ground and build consensus to improve public policy.



I-ASC

All-Party Parliamentary Group for  
**assistive technology**

## Speakers

### Rt Hon John Bercow MP

- Independent member for Buckingham
- Speaker of the House of Commons
- Chair of *The Bercow Report: a review of services for children and young people (0-19) with speech, language and communication needs* (2008)

### Prof. Janice Murray

- Professor of Communication Disability (AAC) Faculty of Health, Psychology & Social Care, at Manchester Metropolitan University
- Chief Investigator, I-ASC Project

### Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE

- Crossbench Peer
- Co-Chair of the APPG on Speech and Language Difficulties
- Former Chief Inspector of Prisons

### Kamini Gadhok MBE

- CEO of The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

### Prof. Brian Lamb OBE

- Chair of Achievement for All
- Chair of the *Lamb Inquiry: Special educational needs and parental confidence* (2009)
- Visiting Fellow, Centre for Educational Research, London Southbank University

### Anne Longfield OBE

- Children's Commissioner for England

### Marie Gascoigne

- Director, Better Communication CIC
  - Better Communication CIC provides consultancy services to support commissioners, providers and practitioners with implementing change to deliver better outcomes for children and young people.
- Editor of the RCSLT report *Better Communication* (2012)



### **Sara Bainbridge**

- Head of Policy and Delivery, NHS Clinical Commissioners
  - NHS CC is the membership organisation of clinical commissioning groups.

### **Stuart Meredith**

- Patient and Public Involvement Co-Researcher, I-ASC, Manchester Metropolitan University

### **Dr Michael Clarke**

- Senior Lecturer and Academic in Language and Cognition, University College London

### **Kim Bates**

- Speech and Language Therapist with the Communication, Learning and Technology Team at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

### **Carolyn Young**

- Lead Commissioner for AAC, NHS England

### **Liz Hewson**

- Parent

### **\*I-ASC TEAM SPEAKERS**

- Dr Yvonne Lynch
- Dr Edward Webb
- Liz Moulam
- Nicky Randall
- Simon Judge
- Helen Whittle



## I-ASC Research Team

Chief Investigator: Prof. Janice Murray,  
Professor of Communication Disability (AAC), Manchester Metropolitan University

### Manchester Metropolitan University, Faculty of Health, Psychology & Social Care

Co-Investigator: Prof. Juliet Goldbart  
Research Fellow: Dr Yvonne Lynch  
PI Co-Researchers: Stuart Meredith  
Liz Moulam  
Research Assistant: Helen Whittle

### University of Leeds

Co-Investigator: Prof. Stephane Hess: Director of Choice Modelling Centre, University of Leeds  
Dr David Meads: Associate Professor in Health Economics  
Research Fellow: Dr Edward Webb: Health Economics

### Barnsley Assistive Technology Centre, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Co-Investigator: Simon Judge: Senior Clinical Scientist  
Research Assistant: Nicky Randall

### Critical Friends Group:

Individuals with expertise in the field of AAC who come together on a 6 monthly basis to provide support and guidance to the project team. Between meetings individual members may have more of an involvement in their specialist area advising on many aspects of the project from the planning stages through to dissemination.

#### For further information regarding the I-ASC project contact:

**Janice Murray, PhD, FRCSLT, Professor of Communication Disability (AAC)**

Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University,  
Birley Fields Campus, 53 Bonsall Street, Manchester M15 6GX United Kingdom

Phone: 0161 247 2570 Email: [j.murray@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.murray@mmu.ac.uk)

[www.i-asc.org.uk](http://www.i-asc.org.uk)

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