

St Ann's Transition Clinic: 15-18 years of age

What is the Transition Clinic?

Now that you are nearing adulthood we would like to make the process of moving from the Paediatric Audiology Service to the Adult Audiology Service as smooth as possible. This process will take place over 3 appointments at yearly intervals starting from when you are 14-15 years of age with your last appointment being when you turn 18 years of age. In some cases you may decide you would like to move to Adult services earlier if you are leaving full time education.

If you live in Haringey then you will continue to be seen by our Adult Service within the department; but if you live in Enfield you will be referred to local Adult Audiology Services at Chase Farm Hospital.

Regardless of whether you remain being seen by us or are referred to another service we want to make sure you are well informed of your hearing loss and hearing aid/s, aware of the differences that exist between paediatric and adult services and how you can obtain additional help from other services and organisations.

What happens at Transition appointments?

At each appointment the audiologist will:

- discuss any difficulties you may be experiencing either with your hearing aids or hearing.
- retest your hearing and help you understand your hearing levels.
- check your hearing aids and show you how to maintain the hearing aids such as changing the tube in your mould.
- explain the transition process and what to expect in the future.
- Provide you with information about equipment that maybe used with your hearing aids.
- provide you with information about support from local services or if you are planning on moving away for college/university, as you start to reach 18 years of age.

We want to make sure you are aware of your hearing loss and be able to explain it so that whether you are moving onto further education or work you are be able to explain the type of support you will require for your hearing loss.

Before you have your final transition appointment with the paediatric department you will be seen by Adult Audiology. This will be in the department with a named Adult audiologist if you are a Haringey patient. If you are an Enfield patient we will send a Pre-Transition referral to Chase Farm Hospital and they will contact you with an appointment. You will still be a St Ann's Paediatric Audiology patient and will continue to be seen by us for appointments, hearing aids and batteries until you are discharged to Enfield Adult Audiology at 18 years of age.



Differences between Paediatric and Adult Audiology Services

| | Paediatric Audiology | Adult Audiology |
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| Service Aim | We would be working to meet the needs of you and your family. | Working to meet your needs. |
| Review hearing tests | These would have been done on a yearly basis, with appointments being sent automatically. | Haringey - Appointments need to be requested if you felt there had been a change in your hearing levels. Enfield – Patients need to be re-referred every three years. This can be done by GP or self-referral. |
| Types of tests | Otoscopy Tympanometry Pure Tone Audiogram (PTA) Real Ear Measurements –which ensure the hearing aid is set appropriately for your hearing loss Aided Speech testing | Otoscopy Tympanometry Pure Tone Audiogram (PTA) Real Ear Measurements |
| Wax removal | Removed by consultant within the department. | May need to see GP / Practice Nurse. |
| Repairs | These tend to be arranged by parents / guardians and are booked for 30 minutes. Sometimes appointments may be pre booked by Audiologist. Some parents / guardians will drop off / collect hearing aids. | Haringey – arranged by you and are a 15 minute booked appointment in the repair clinic either at St Ann’s Hospital or Bounds Green Health Centre Enfield – arranged by you, a 15 minute appointment booked no more than 48 hours in advance at either Chase Farm Hospital or Barnet Hospital. |
| Appointment reports | We write a report after every appointment this is sent to parents/guardians, GP and TOD if applicable. | Generally reports are not written following an appointment with the audiologist, but you can request a copy of your audiogram. |
| Missed appointments - if you do not attend | We will rebook your appointment and write a report to parents/guardians, GP and TOD if applicable. | Your appointment may not necessarily be rebooked and in some instances you may be discharged and a new referral required from your GP. |
| Sharing of Information | Information about your medical history and appointment is shared with your parents/guardians during the appointment and by reports sent to them. | Information about your medical history and appointment is only shared with you, unless you request for this to be shared with your parents/guardians. |
| Types of hearing aids | We fit hearing aids which are from the paediatric range, not all of these are available to adults. | Haringey – we will try and keep you on the same model of hearing aid. Enfield – different Audiology services provide different hearing aids and they may not be able to support your current hearing aids. If this is the case they will change your hearing aids so that they can support them in the future. |

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| Lost or damaged aids | We replace damaged and lost hearing aids without charge | Haringey – you will be charged £70 per hearing aid that is lost Enfield – you may have to pay a fee if you lose your hearing aids. |
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Accessing Audiology Services away from home

If you are moving away you are likely to want to change your GP to one in your new local area. Ask your new GP to refer you to the local Adult Audiology department.

Accessing help whilst at University or College

If you are going on to further education at University or College we would advise you contact their Student's support services. They will be able to advise you about the type of support you can get and how to access it. If you are attending University you can apply for a Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) through Student Finances England. It is important to remember that different universities and colleges will provide different amounts of support and we advise you contact the Disability or Learning Support officer prior to starting your course.

Please see www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas for further details about eligibility and how to apply.

Accessing help whilst at work

The Access to Work scheme is government funded and enables people with additional needs to obtain support at work, such as helping with the cost of equipment required in your work place. You would need to register for this and more information can be found at www.gov.uk/access-to-work, or you can speak to the Disability Employment Adviser at your local Job Centre Plus.

What to do if you're not happy with the Adult Service

In the first instance we would advise you contact the Adult service and discuss your concerns. If they are unable to help you, you should contact the Trust's Patient Liaison Service (PALS), details of which appear further below. They will be able to provide you with assistance and advice.

Links for useful information and advice

- [Buzz](http://www.buzz.org.uk)

Information and advice for young people www.buzz.org.uk

- [NDCS](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

www.ndcs.org.uk

- [Action on Hearing loss](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/supporting-you)

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/supporting-you

- Deaf Plus

www.deafplus.org

- Connevans

Specialise in equipment and technology for people with hearing loss

www.connevans.com

- Hearing Link

www.hearinglink.org

- Access to Work

www.gov.uk/access-to-work

- Disability Students Allowance

www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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