

Sensory Impairment Service May 2020

Guidance for eligibility for Radio Aids

The Sensory Impairment Service will assess a child's need on an individual basis and in discussion with health professionals, will make a decision based on the following criteria:

School Age children (including 6th Form)

- Every deaf child with or without an EHCP who has a hearing loss of 5 frequency average of minimum 40 dBHL will be offered access to a radio aid system.
- Any other deaf child with a hearing loss will be considered for a radio aid system on a case by case approach. There will need to be evidence that:
 - (i) A radio aid system will improve access to their learning.
 - (ii) The radio aid system will be used daily in school and managed appropriately following a successful trial period.

Early Years Children

The Sensory Impairment Service, Qualified Teachers of the Deaf (QTOD's) and Educational Audiologists (EA's) will assess children individually taking into consideration the NDCS Quality Standards (QS) and relevant information from the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS):

Radio aid Quality Standards

The QS1: Every deaf child should be considered as a potential candidate for provision with a personal radio aid as part of their amplification package, at first hearing aid fitting.

The NDCS document: 'Right from the Start' states: The National Deaf Children's Society recommends that local authorities ensure that radio aids are more readily available to parents of deaf children where parents would like one to support their child's spoken language and communication development.

1. Any child who is hearing impaired/deaf (aged 0-3 yrs) with a permanent childhood hearing Impairment (PCHI) and with a 4 frequency average hearing loss of 50 dBHL or greater in the better ear will be eligible for a radio aid system to support:
 - Speech and language development.
 - Social and emotional development.
 - Positive Behavioural management.The QTOD will assess the need on case-by-case approach and there will need to be evidence that the radio aid is successful following a trial period.
2. Any deaf child with a permanent childhood hearing Impairment (PCHI) from the age of 3 years who is an established hearing aid user and with a 4 frequency average hearing loss of 40 dBHL or greater, will be offered a 6 month trial of a radio aid system. Where this trial is deemed successful by the EA/QTOD, a radio aid will be offered.
3. For children who have a Cochlear Implant: following discussion with the Auditory Implant centre and after completion of the FM Readiness Toolkit Programme, a radio aid will be trialled.