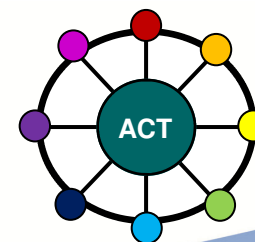


**Access to Communication & Technology (ACT)  
Bulletin  
October 2018**

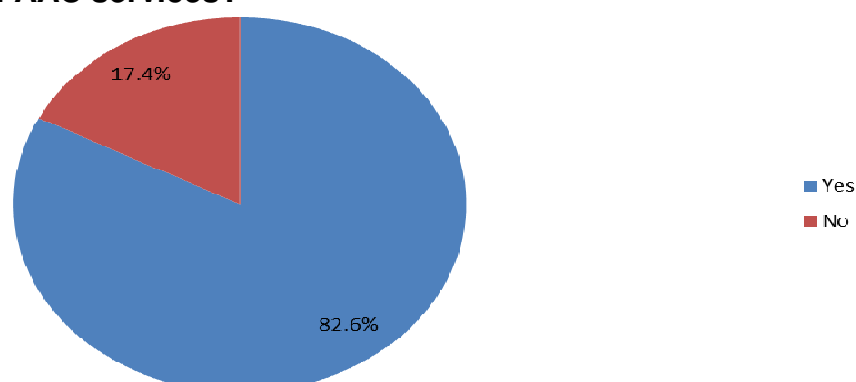


Welcome to the ninth edition of the ACT bulletin, our regular publication aimed at keeping you informed of our progress as we build a better ACT service together with you, our stakeholders.

This issue will feedback the results of a smart survey we sent out in May inviting all our local AAC services we have previously had contact with to feedback about how ACT can support them with the establishment, training and development of local AAC services. We had 23 responses and firstly we would like to thank those who replied for participating.

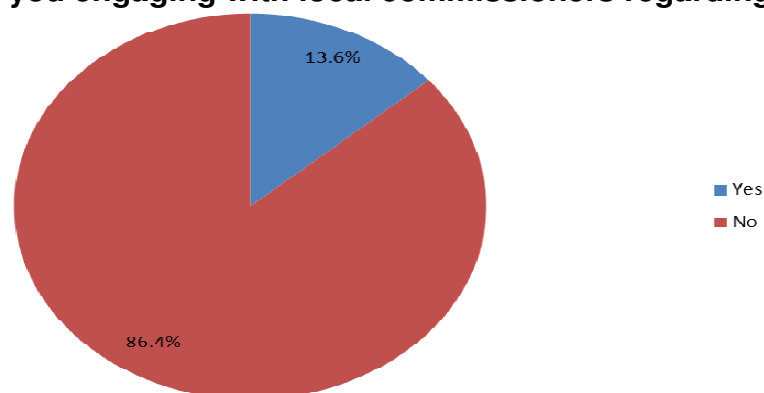
Below is a summary of the responses to the questions along with the plans to take the recommendations arising from them forward .

**1. Are you aware of the Guidance for Commissioning AAC Service and Equipment document and the remit of specialised local AAC services?**



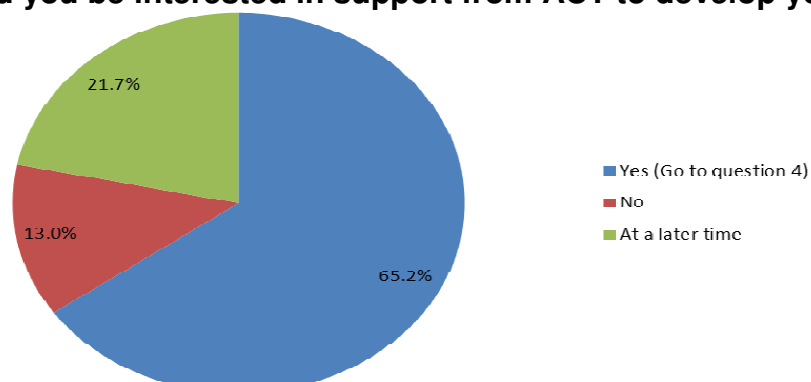
It is good to see this document is familiar to most people now but we are including the link again for reference <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/03/guid-comms-aac.pdf> Also here is the link to the AAC service specification <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/03/aac-serv-spec-jan-2016.pdf>

**2. Are you engaging with local commissioners regarding support for AAC in your SLT service ?**



This shows the potential to support teams with engaging their local commissioners with regards to AAC needs.

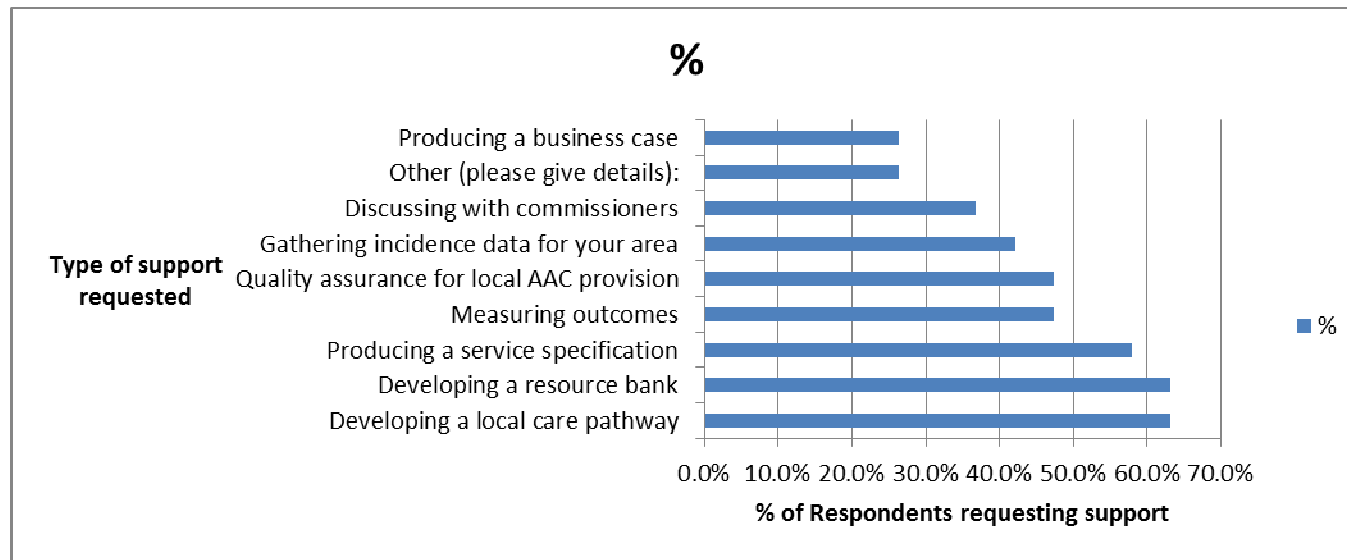
**3. Would you be interested in support from ACT to develop your Local Service?**



One way we are offering support is to host a workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup> December to focus on some of the key points highlighted by respondents.

**4. What help would you like (we asked you to tick all those relevant from the list) ?**

The following points we have ranked by the % of people who would like help with them



**Items we will cover in detail on the 5<sup>th</sup> December:**

- Producing a business case
- Discussing with commissioners
- Gathering incidence data for your area
- Quality assurance for local AAC provision
- Producing a service specification
- Developing a resource bank
- Developing a local care pathway

**Items we can support with in other ways:**

Measuring outcomes

ACT are implementing Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMS- AAC) which is recommended by both the RCSLT and the AAC service specification and it has been agreed will be implemented in all national AAC hubs. If you are considering implementing TOMs in your service we can share an example template for measuring AAC outcomes. Claire Hayward and Catriona Burke are part of the specialised AAC national working party and would be able to advise you about implementing it.

Training Support

We have separated the two questions below out from the others as these fall under the remit of our training project.

Using competency framework to develop staff skills	57.9%
Developing local training and awareness raising packages	63.2%

Chris Sherlock leads our training project and one of the pieces of work linking in with this is to progress IPAACKS (Informing and Profiling Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Knowledge and Skills) as a competency framework.

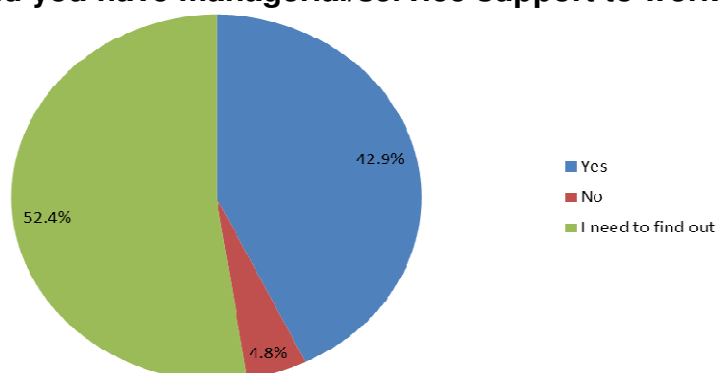
[http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/allied-health-professions/augmentative-and-alternative-communication-\(aac\).aspx](http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/allied-health-professions/augmentative-and-alternative-communication-(aac).aspx)

The NHSE specialised AAC services (such as ACT) are creating some level 1 IPAACKS training materials that could be used by local teams. It is planned there will be a set for working with people who use AAC with spelling and a set for symbol users. These would be available to use by people such as SLTs who have come on related courses at Access to Communication and Technology or similar NHSE services.

Please see our training webpage for details of upcoming training events.

<http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-public/rehabilitation/act/training/>

**5. Would you have managerial/service support to work with ACT to develop your local service?**



ACT are keen to work with those team with management support to take this work forward and help those who don't seek this support.

**Access to Communication and Technology Contact Details**

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Website: [www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/ACT](http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/ACT)

**Apply for a place**

Please download and complete the expression of interest form from the training page here

<http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-public/rehabilitation/act/training/> and e-mail it to Terri Kelly, Training Support Officer.

[bchnt.accesstocommunicationandtechnology@nhs.net](mailto:bchnt.accesstocommunicationandtechnology@nhs.net)