Assistive Technology for Hearing Loss

There are many products available to help deaf people to hear more easily at home and at work. New products become available all the time and the internet can be a valuable source of information.

This information sheet gives some ideas of what is currently available.

Ask for assistance from an Audiologist or the manufacturer if unsure whether or not the equipment is suitable for your hearing aid or level of hearing loss. Sometimes extra programmes need activating on hearing aids for a product to work.

These are some examples of companies that provide information or products, but there may be more. Please check delivery prices and returns policies carefully before buying any equipment.

**NDCS** (National Deaf Children’s Society) www.ndcs.org.uk – They also provide a loan service for children and young people called Technology Test Drive. Families need to become a member but it is free to join.

**Connevans** – www.deafequipment.co.uk

**Action on Hearing Loss** - www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Listening to music

If headphones do not give good access to sounds, the input can be sent through hearing aids using either:

- Neck loops
- Ear hooks
- Direct input leads
- Silent headphones

Listening to the TV

If hearing the TV is difficult, there are many ways to help. Some connect through wires, others are wireless. Some are portable, others are wired in.

- Personal FM
- TV Listening Headphone
- Room Loops
- Wireless TV Listener
Alarm clocks/watches
If alarms are difficult to hear, there are lots of ways to set an alarm! Some need to be plugged in and some need a battery.

Doorbells/baby monitors/fire alarms/carbon monoxide alarms
These can be wired in or portable, some can be connected to other devices e.g. a baby monitor can be connected to an alarm clock so it vibrates when baby cries. They can be extra loud and with flashing lights.

Telephones
Texting can be a great way to contact friends, but sometimes we need to talk to someone. Phones can have volume and tone control. They can also have extra loud rings or lights to let you know someone is calling. Using a phone on loud speaker can also be helpful as it allows listening through two ears.

Hearing aid first aid
There are many products available which can help to keep hearing aids working.

Bluetooth
Some newer hearing aids may have a Bluetooth connection. This type of hearing aid will need a streamer to connect to hearing aids to other devices. This method can be very power hungry!

Finally – For people in work or about to start work, specialist equipment may be needed to assist with access. The government’s Access to Work Scheme can provide advice and may pay some or all of the costs. To find out more, speak to the Disability Employment Advisor at the local jobcentre or visit:
https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/what-youll-get