Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill

Stage 2 Amendment on the provision of voice equipment: Call for Views

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

NHS Ayrshire and Arran has a long standing commitment to supporting children and adults across Ayrshire and Arran who require access to augmentative and alternative methods of communication (AAC) through the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Departments AAC Service, which was established over 20 years ago. The AAC Service is staffed by a 0.5 wte SLT and provides AAC assessment, training (to the person who uses AAC, their family and professionals/support staff) and ongoing support.

The AAC Service has a loan bank of voice output communication systems. This loan bank has equipment that is used for AAC assessments and equipment which following assessment, can be provided for the use children and adults across Ayrshire and Arran. Funding from ‘A Right to Speak’ was used to update the loan bank. In addition to the AAC Loan Bank, the role of our partners, in education and the third sector is key to the provision of AAC systems - loans of equipment and funding (or joint funding) from partners is of great importance in the provision of AAC equipment.

Any reduction in the financial support of partner agencies would be of considerable concern and if this were to happen would put significant additional financial pressures on NHS Ayrshire and Arran around the provision of AAC systems.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Speech and Language Therapy Department