



## Summary Report

### No References to Technology

#### Summary Points:

- 6 of the 27 charities/organisations investigated showed no references or recommendations for technology to support their beneficiaries and stakeholders
- These were specialist charities that focus on one specific area of disability or specific aim or mission
- However some use twitter and Facebook accounts to improve communications with their beneficiaries and stakeholders

### Recommendation for Hardware

#### Summary Points:

- 11 of 27 charities/organisations recommend hardware to support and increase a child's access to technology
- The majority dedicate a section on their website to these, with descriptions and photos of the products
- 5 of these recommend hardware specifically for those with communication difficulties
- Whilst 6 are more generically focused upon disabilities

### Recommendation for Software

#### Summary Points:

- Software was more commonly recommended than hardware. With 13 charities/organisations providing software recommendations
- Recommendations were presented via a dedicated section on the website, through research articles and in one case through a booklet
- 3 of the charities/organisations recommend software specifically for those with communication difficulties
- Whilst 10 are more generically focused upon disabilities

## Recommendation for use of AAC to Communicate

### Summary Points:

- Some charities/organisations touched mildly on the concept of AAC whilst others dedicated whole websites and microsites to it
- Obtaining assessments and support for AAC devices is provided by AbilityNet
- AbilityNet, Find A Voice and EmpTech have resource libraries that allow the borrowing of AAC communication devices
- Others, offered resources and references to the research of AAC being used to aid communication

## Case Studies

### Summary Points:

- Individual's case studies and stories of how ICT has made an impact on their lives are used
- Case studies focused on using non-specialist technologies in imaginative and innovative ways
- Mencap used video clips on their website to provide case studies of their work

## Resource Libraries

### Summary Points:

- 6 of the 27 charities/organisations had some form of resource library
- 2 of these offered a loan bank service for the purpose of 'try before you buy' assistive technologies
- 2 offered catalogue and databases full of recommended assistive technologies
- There was also a large data library of published material
- As well as a library of assistive technology, a library of research projects being undertaken by a wide range of charities and organisations

## IT Projects

### Summary Points:

- 11 of the 27 charities/organisations were involved in projects with an IT focus
- Note that the future of any current projects facilitated by BECTA is unknown
- The projects focuses included:
  - Making content accessible, including Web 2.0 resources
  - Providing accessibility aids and resources to use
  - Promoting awareness of Assistive Technologies available

- The usage of mobile devices by those with disabilities
- Providing a video messaging online community
- Providing training through the use of IT
- Forming a repository of Open Source Assistive Technology software
- Producing a website to compare and contrast communication aids

### **Information Sheets & Fact Sheets/Articles**

#### Summary Points:

- 13 of the 27 charities/organisations had information sheets and articles available with an IT focus
- The majority of these publications were aimed at a generic group of disabilities; 7 were focused specifically on communication difficulties
- Some of the topics focused on included:
  - IT Equipment/Communication Aids
  - Assistive Technologies
  - Mobile Technologies
  - Accessibility
  - Virtual Learning Environments
  - Computer Applications
  - Communicating through AAC

### **Emerging Technologies**

#### Summary Points:

- 17 out of the 27 charities/organisations showed evidence of using some form of emerging technology
- Becta has an Emerging Technologies for Learning microsite
- A number of charities have regularly updated, Facebook and twitter accounts to report news etc. to their beneficiaries