Access to Assistive Technology

**The Access Group
National Training Event**

10th & 11th May 2012

Venue provided by

Royal Hospital for
Neuro-disability
A national medical charity
Registered Charity No. 205907

Lunch supplied by

tobii

The AT Access group is a collection of individuals largely from the UK who have an interest in finding solutions for people with disabilities to access technology. This technology may come in many forms such as a communication device, a computer, a wheelchair or equipment to control the environment, such as doors, windows and telephones. *How* an individual accesses this technology is our main interest.

We meet as a group across the UK at least twice a year and exist online through an email forum where thoughts, equipment and issues can all be discussed in a friendly unbiased environment. The group is free and open to anyone.

The two day event is as a result of our desire to have more time to share our knowledge and experience with each other and update our skills in all things *access*.

ataccessgroup.org.uk

The Access Group

Access to Technology Training Event 2012 Programme

Day 1: Thursday 10th May

9.00	Registration & Coffee

Eye Gaze – Chaired by Jane Bache & Gillian Taylor

9.30   **Exploring eye gaze for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities**
Gillian Taylor, Occupational Therapist (OT), Penhurst School

Presentation of a small number of cases studies where eye gaze technology has been introduced to children with complex physical and learning needs.

10.15   **Eye Pointing: An Alternative Solution to Eye Gaze**
Sandra Hartley, Logan Technologies

A brief case study of a young lad with a progressive condition who could not manage eye gaze but found a solution in the lower tech Megabee. Hugely motivated, he recently sat his English GCSE with this AAC device, result pending!

10.30   **Assessing Vision and Perception in Children**
Tricia Hawkes & Debbie Bailey, OTs, Kent Communication and Assistive Technology Service.

The Kent CAT service will present their experiences of modifying a standardized assessment tool (Test of Visual Perceptual Skills) to allow it to be completed by gaze.

11.00	Refreshments

11.15   **The Science of Eye Gaze and Eye Tracking and the Assessment Toolkit**
Hector Minto, Tobii

12.00   **Sensory Eye FX Apps: Allowing Children with Physical Disabilities to engage and explore just by looking around!**
Lee Blemings, Sensory Guru

Introducing a range of eye controlled sensory applications for use with learners who are just starting out with eye control and need to learn without risk of failure, and without a requirement for precise calibration.

12.30   **Open floor: Question and Answers - Eye gaze**

1.00	Lunch & Exhibition

Integrated Controls – Chaired by Marcus Friday

2.00   **Integrating Wheelchair Controls**
Marcus Friday, Clinical Scientist, Barnsley Assistive Technology Service.

Using powered wheelchair controllers as a means of operating a range of environmental controls and communication equipment and custom solutions to support this.

2.30   **Product Demonstrations of Solutions for Integrated Control**

Paul Readey (Dynamic Controls) and Roger Deakin (Smile Rehab) will share with us the latest solutions for achieving integrated control.

3.30	Refreshments

3.45   **Open floor: Questions and Answers - Integrated Controls**

4.15   **Aspire Assistive Technology Service - Supporting People with Spinal Injury**
Andrew Kell, Service Manager

A programme of volunteer-led assistive computer technology assessments and training at Spinal Injury Centres across the UK.

4.45	Close

Day 2 : Friday 11th May

9.00	**Registration & Coffee**

9.30   **The Power of Thought**
Rob Livesley, Oxford Centre for Enablement and OpenVivo

An update and overview of the latest developments in brain computer interface (BCI) technology.

Managing Access for People with Progressive Conditions – Chaired by Lisa Farrand

10.15   **Ray's Communication Journey – Huntingdon's Disease and AAC – A case Study**
Jane Bache, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

Clients with Huntingdon's Disease can benefit from different types of AAC and different access methods at different points in the disease progression. This session aims to demonstrate how these changing needs can be met and the challenges this presents the clinician.

11.00	**Refreshments**

11.15   **Trying to Hit a Moving Target: The challenges and opportunities of working with clients with rapidly progressing conditions**
Jodie Rogers, OT, East Kent Adult CAT Service

Clients with rapidly progressing conditions experience continually changing needs. Working with such clients you have neither the luxury of time nor a static presentation. It is effectively like trying to hit a moving target. This session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of working with this client group.

12.00   **Open Floor: Question and Answer - Access for People with Progressive Conditions**

12.30   **Service delivery in the current economic climate**
Lynn Allsopp, Birmingham ACT

This session will introduce the role of the OT within Birmingham ACT and discuss prioritisation strategies and new ways of working that are being developed to cope with their current 40% OT staffing shortfall.

1.00	**Lunch & Exhibition**

Accessing the Latest Mobile Computing Devices – Chaired by Will Wade

2.00   **Accessing iDevices**
Will Wade, OT, Kent CAT

An overview of options to Access iDevices including switch control, keyboard access, accessibility options, voice over, peripherals e.g. stylus' and specialist equipment

2.40   **Access to Android Apps**
Gary Derwent, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

3.10   **R-Net Controller & Android**
Heather Walsh, Sunrise Medical

3.30   **Open Floor: Question and Answer- Android & iOS**

4.00 **Close**	

Posters and Lunch-time demos on both days to include:

- **Bespoke Modifications for Positioning and Function** - Karen Alkhina, OT, Kent CAT

- **Alternative Switch Input options -** A demonstration of some alternative switch input methods developed in research - Will Wade, OT, Kent CAT

A range of representatives and product demonstrations will be available from a number of companies including:

Tobii, Smile Rehab, Dynamic Controls, Smartbox AT, SpecialEffect, Liberator, Inclusive Technology, Dynavox, Techcess, OpenVivo and Sensory Guru.