

Hearing checks in residential special schools

About the project

Children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability don't always have access to hearing checks or the checks are not always appropriate to meet their needs. We want to change this.



As part of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), NHS England has been looking at ways to provide hearing checks for every child.

Co-Production Collective are working with NHS England to put on a series of 'Hearing Health' events and set up 'a network'. Attendees at these events will have a chance to work on plans for a paediatric audiology 'network', specifically for those committed to supporting children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability and working in a collaborative way with this demographic.

What is this Hearing Health 'network' and series of events about?

- Who will attend? – a mixture of people will attend including adults who are autistic and/or have a learning disability, parents/carers, school staff such as teachers and learning support assistants, people working in healthcare such as audiologists, school nurses, and speech and language therapists.
- What will happen? – at the event, together we will share learning, supporting each other through challenges and generating ideas that build on the project's ongoing work to consider how this 'network' can function and ultimately become self-sustainable, whilst centring the needs of children and young people.

Why is this event important?

- A chance to share your perspective and expertise so that together we can create more acceptable hearing checks and improved access for children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability.
- Discuss your current practice related to hearing or associated areas.
- Contribute to meeting the NHS Long Term Plan's commitment of creating equal access to hearing checks and feed into a nationwide programme.
- Work towards reducing health inequalities for children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability.

Please email Chloe c.apter@ucl.ac.uk for more information.