

# Influencing Commissioning Decisions



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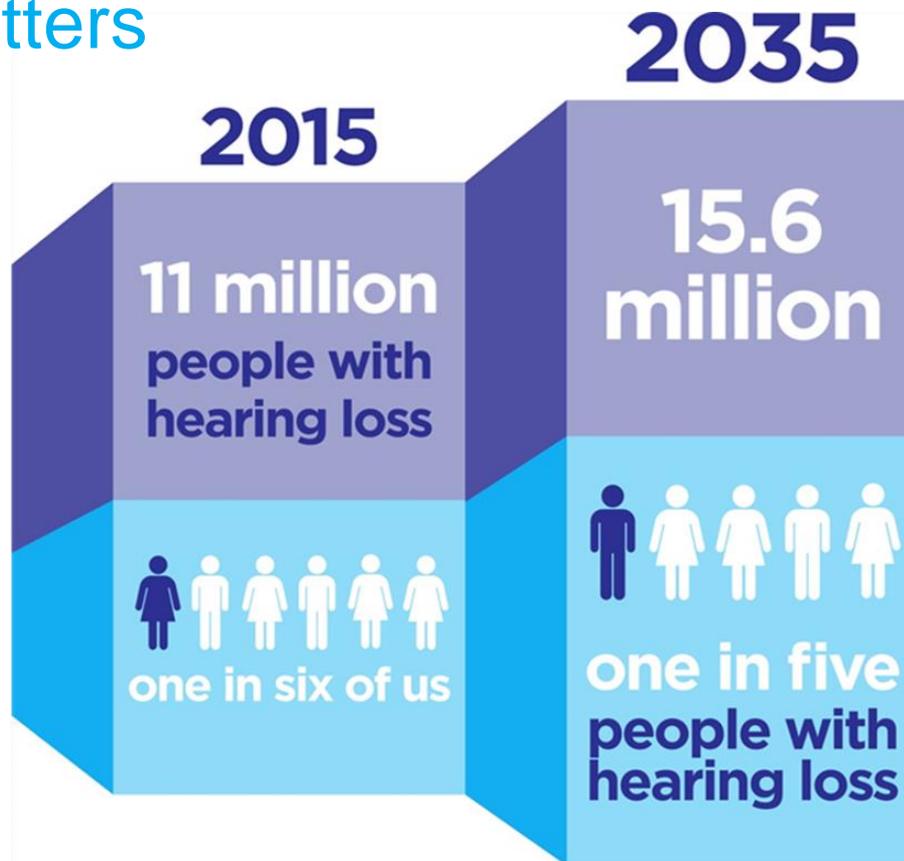
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# Hearing Matters



Sets out evidence in all the areas we work on – including hearing aids and hearing services.

[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingmatters](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingmatters)

# Context



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- Department of Health / NHS England Action Plan on Hearing Loss 2015.
- NHS England Commissioning Framework in April 2016.
- NICE guidance on adult hearing loss to start in 2016.

But...

- Local cuts to hearing aids and services.
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# Clinical Commissioning Group cuts

[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingaidcuts](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingaidcuts)



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**North Staffordshire:** Since 1 October 2015 many people don't get hearing aids (none for mild hearing loss, people with moderate loss must prove 'significant impact' on HHIE-S)

**South Staffordshire CCGs:** Proposed to follow N Staffs, then stopped proposals. Waiting for Commissioning Framework.

**South Norfolk:** Halted proposals to cut hearing aids for mild loss after consulting. Waiting for Commissioning Framework.

**Mid Essex:** Proposed to stop providing hearing aids for mild loss (under 40dB). Delaying decision to find alternative savings

**Cornwall:** Proposed no hearing aids for under 35dB loss. Proposals overturned after CCG engaged with sector.

**North East Essex:** Consulted on not providing hearing aids for under 37 dB hearing loss, then decided not to go ahead.

# North Staffordshire cuts



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- **North Staffordshire CCG**
  - We, BAA, NCHA and others engaged and gave them evidence, which they ignored.
  - Did not hold a full consultation, and ignored opposition
- **Staffordshire Council**
  - Duty to scrutinise evidence review and engagement
  - Originally voted to allow the cuts, but in response to 5,000-strong local petition, interrogated the evidence
  - Called on CCG to review its decision making process and the impact of the new policy
- **NHS England Regional Team**
  - Must assess whether CCGs are fulfilling their duties.
  - No action, despite CCG not consulting and ignoring evidence and opposition

# Audiology services squeezed



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- Aside from making direct cuts, many CCGs have reduced budgets, or not increased them in line with demand.
- Budget cuts and increasing demand have forced **two in five audiology providers** across the UK (41%) to make reductions to their service .
- Research launched 2015

[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/underpressure](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/underpressure)

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# Campaigning

- Calling for a moratorium on cuts – wait for Commissioning Framework and NICE guidance.



- Continue to campaign against North Staffs cuts.
  - Stop domino effect – engage with other CCGs
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## Influencing decisions

- Engage with CCGs, **let us and BAA know if you hear of any cuts.**
- Collect and share outcomes data to show the benefit of the service.
- Share examples of cost savings and good practice.
- Ask us and BAA for support, and use the evidence ([www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingmatters](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingmatters))



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