

"For deaf people, with deaf people, by deaf people."

DEAFvibe

Deafness = Equality & Access = Fairness STAFFORDSHIRE



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CAMPAIGN TO KEEP HEARING AIDS FREE CONTINUES

DEAFvibe have been working hard behind the scenes to raise their concerns in relation to the potential decommissioning of NHS digital hearing aids by the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, a move which would affect people living in North Staffordshire and Staffordshire Moorlands. DEAFvibe representative attended both engagement events at Newcastle and Leek. We submitted our own reports listing our concerns and the long-term negative impact that the potential decision would have on people.

The proposals are:

- NHS hearing aids would no longer be provided for adults with low or moderate age-related hearing loss.
- These patients would still be eligible for free hearing tests.
- Adults with severe or profound hearing loss would not be affected by changes.
- Adults who currently have hearing aids will not have them taken away.
- Adults with moderate hearing loss would become eligible if their hearing deteriorated.

Julie Hart, DEAFvibe Chair, along with other organisations attended a separate meeting organised by the CCG in which various reports containing a wide range of evidence were submitted to the CCG, showing the negative impact that progressing with this decision would have.

No decisions have been made yet, the CCG need to consider all evidence gathered from the engagement meetings, results from completed surveys, the petition submitted by Action on Hearing Loss and evidence submitted by Action on Hearing Loss, Academy of Audiology, British Society of Audiologists, UHNS Audiology department, University of Southampton and various other bodies.

DEAFvibe are extremely grateful for the support of other organisations in backing this campaign.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th August DEAFvibe Café

Newcastle Library 11am-3pm

Topics: Tai Chi and Relaxation –
Mat Lawrence

15th August DEAFvibe HUB

Newcastle Civic Offices 10am-3pm

5th September DEAFvibe HUB

Newcastle Civic Offices 10am-3pm

13th September DEAFvibe Café

Newcastle Library 11am-3pm

Topic: To be confirmed

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE UPDATE

In the last newsletter, we promised to keep you updated with the latest news about when the presentation of the certificate and crystal for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service would be made.

The reception has been arranged for Thursday 20th November at 6.45pm and will be held at the Council Chamber in Newcastle Civic Offices. The Vice Lord Lieutenant will be in attendance to present the award to DEAFvibe.

Arrangements for the ceremony are being made and further announcements will be made in due course and invitations sent out.

We look forward to bringing you more news on this.

DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS

A 37 year old deaf lady from Redcar has been employed as a gastroenterology nurse after 5 years of study.

At 17, she was told that a career in nursing would be impossible for her due to her deafness, despite passing all of the qualifications needed to join a nursing course and pursue the dream she had held since she was 3 years old. 5 years ago she enrolled on an Access course and then began a university degree and is now a qualified registered nurse.

If you are told deafness is a barrier to you achieving your dreams, don't give up. Speak to people who understand and who might be able to help you overcome any prejudice.

There are many successful deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf blind people, their stories are just hidden. If you would like to share your success story on our website to encourage others and to show that hearing loss does not have to be a barrier, please let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES / FACEBOOK PAGES / TWITTER PAGES TO FOLLOW

- www.staffordshirecares.info - BSL video clips on bus passes, crime, hate crime and other services from Staffordshire Adult and Social Care team and Stoke-on-Trent Sensory Team.
- www.staffordshirepolice.uk - BSL videos and transcripts on policing, emergency text message and more. Go to the Info & Advice section and select Help & Advice, British Sign Language.
- **Twitter – Action on Hearing Loss** – up to the minute news on campaigns, advice and news geared towards Hard of Hearing and Deaf people.

Disclaimer: whilst DEAFvibe endeavors to provide accurate and up to date information at all times, no responsibility nor liability will be accepted for any information which may subsequently prove to be wrong or misleading.