

Advice sessions at the Bath Office during August.

Dan our equipment officer is happy to meet you by appointment to discuss the following:

- TV Listeners
- Alerting devices and doorbells
- Personal listening devices
- Telephone amplifiers
- Flashing and vibrating smoke alarms
- (Referrals made to the Fire service)
- Batteries and tubing (we do not supply hearing aids) Limited supplies.

In person appointments available at Advice sessions held at our offices 2 Queens Parade on the following dates between 10am to 1pm

Mondays 1st August 8th August 15th August and 22nd between 10am and 1pm

Tuesdays 2nd August 9th August 16th 23rd August and 30th August between 10am and 1pm

Wednesday 3rd August 10th August 17th August 24th August and 31st August between 10am and 1pm

Thursday We are out in the communities in North East Somerset

Fridays Telephone consultations only

Information and Advice session appointments can be booked on 01225 446555 or email dan.berry@deafplus.org or stewart.weston@deafplus.org



We are recruiting a Community Vision Impairment Officer

You will provide information & advice service to service users with visual impairments living in Bath and North-East Somerset (BaNES) via office appointments, telephone, and home visits. The information and advice on issues relating to all aspects of social welfare, including (but not limited to) equipment, welfare benefits and housing. You will carry out an initial assessment to identify client's needs, and follow up with appropriate action, which may include form filling (e.g. PIP and AA), helping clients to interact with other services such as eye clinics and the DWP, and signposting to specialist services. This position is for 12 hours a week, Mon-Weds. Interested please contact stewart.weston@deafplus.org or 07762 848226

Social activities, we are planning and contacting groups to relaunch our social activities with a visit 26th September to the Arnolfini Art Gallery. With this visit we will the Bath area group will be established and a range of visits, talks and other activities will be delivered once a month from October through to May. The North East Somerset area group starts a month later in November. Both groups will be dual sensory due to the cost of community transport. We are recruiting volunteers who will need to be DBS and have training for the operation to be completed safely. **Interested please contact stewart.weston@deafplus.org or 07762 848226**



Auracast™ – new Bluetooth technology for people with hearing loss

Technology and

assistive devices

Brand new audio sharing technology, Auracast™, could transform the way hearing aid and cochlear implant users listen to audio.

deafPLUS is really excited about the announcement of Auracast™, a brand new assistive listening system.

Auracast™ has been designed specifically for people with hearing loss, to stream audio to devices such as hearing aids and cochlear implants. This will make audio in public places and on personal devices, like smartphones, much more accessible. For instance, you will be able to use your smartphone to listen to public announcements in busy stations or airports, or to share music with friends.

Since Bluetooth's announcement of this new technology in early 2020, deafPLUS has been excited about the new audio sharing technology and the benefits it might bring to our community. We expect new Auracast™ products, including hearing aids and cochlear implants, to start coming into the market in early 2023. deafPLUS will continue to work with Bluetooth SIG and with our supporters to encourage venues and product developers to adopt Auracast and make the transition from existing systems, as it has the potential to make a significant difference to the lives of people with hearing loss.

About Auracast™ How assistive listening systems work Assistive listening systems can be used to help people who struggle to hear audio in difficult environments. This can include hearing speech in noisy places, music, dialogue on television and the telephone. There are different technologies

that can help do this such as loop systems. Auracast is the newest one.

Existing Bluetooth streaming For hearing aid and cochlear implant users, streaming audio using Bluetooth from personal devices like smartphones has been available for some time. However, currently, it only allows you to connect to a single device at a time and sometimes only works with specific devices. Read more about assistive listening systems.

How Auracast is different

1. Access to audio for everyone

Anyone with Auracast™ enabled Bluetooth earbuds or hearing aids will be able to access high quality audio, through the privacy of their own device. This might be public announcements like when you are at an airport or train station or a private conversation, such as talking to someone at your bank.

2. Share the experience with others

The new Auracast™ will be the first truly universal Bluetooth connection. You will be able to stream audio from any Auracast™ capable device to your Auracast™ enabled Bluetooth earbuds or hearing aids. This means you can all listen to the same music from one phone together.

When Auracast™ will be released

The Bluetooth SIG are currently finalising the specifications that product developers and venues will have to meet in order to use Auracast™. This is expected to be released in the next few months with new Auracast™ products including hearing aids and cochlear implants to then start coming into the market in early 2023. It will take a long time to move from existing systems to new technology. It is therefore important that existing technology like loop systems continue to be used to provide vital communication support for those who need it.