



What happens next?

What about my views?

North East Cochlear Implant Programme

Information for parents/carers about your baby's referral for a cochlear implant assessment.

1. Your audiologist is referring your baby to the North East Cochlear Implant Programme. It is a good time to refer your baby because this enables both the local team and the cochlear implant team to work together closely with yourselves to assess your baby's hearing and offer the best way forward.

Your local audiologist will continue to see your baby with their hearing aids.

What happens next?

2. When we receive a referral at the cochlear implant team we allocate a keyworker, based on where you live. The keyworker will give you a telephone call about 2 or 3 weeks after the referral was sent. We will also send you a letter to tell you we have accepted the referral and some information about cochlear implants.
3. The local Teacher of the Deaf and the Cochlear Implant Keyworker will arrange to visit you in your home at a time which suits you. This visit is to discuss your questions and concerns.

During the visit the keyworker will explain to you what will happen in the cochlear implant assessment. They will tell you about the different people you will meet and the timescales for the appointments.

4. During the assessment process you will still visit your local audiology department for your baby's hearing aid care.

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5. We carry out a cochlear implant assessment so that we can decide whether or not cochlear implants are likely to help your baby hear more than they can with hearing aids, and therefore give a better opportunity for them to learn to hear and speak. However, the decision whether to go ahead once that advice has been given is only with parents/carer's agreement. There will be many people who parents and carers can talk to during the assessment, including other families who have a child with a cochlear implant. We hope this will help you to make your decision when the time comes.

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