

Why modernise **Now?**

Long overdue

NHS Hearing Aid services have historically been

- chronically underfunded
- significantly understaffed
- forced to use old-fashioned equipment
- stuck with mostly outdated hearing aids
- insufficiently followed up to ensure patients were really benefitting.

Financial benefit

- Significant capital and revenue funding is available for staff, equipment, training and hearing aids.
- Any services that do not secure funding through the MHAS programme now will need to seek all funding for modernisation from their PCTs in the future.

Patient need

- 2 million existing hearing aid users nationally and up to 4 million potential additional users. (MRC 1995)
- Too many hearing aid users were not obtaining much benefit from them.

Patient benefit

- Digital hearing aids can be better tailored to suit individual hearing loss.
- Improved patient journey ensuring that patients obtain optimum use and benefit.

Patient expectation

- More than 130 Hearing Aid Services in England are modernised or are in the process of modernising.
- As the number of modernised services increases, patient expectation will demand the delivery of digital hearing aids as standard.

Financially viable

- The NHS is the largest hearing aid purchaser in the world and, with the RNID, has reduced the average digital hearing aid cost to £65-75. This cost will fall even further as more services modernise and digital volumes increase.
- Digital hearing aids can now be provided free of charge to patients in the public sector, while patients in the private sector can pay up to £2,500 per digital aid.

For more information or for an application pack please contact the MHAS programme team on 020 7296 8022 or see the website www.mhas.info