



## **How has Speech and Language Therapy input changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support those who are deafblind**

**Beccy Timbers & Olly Robinson**

**Summary:** Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many professionals supporting those who are deafblind have needed to change the ways in which they provide services and support to this population.

This webinar will discuss how our Speech and Language Therapy service has adapted to support those that we would usually work with directly, including:

- Adapting tactile intensive interaction to allow for social distancing
- Providing information about changes that are currently happening
- Providing therapy through video sessions with deafblind children and young people and their parents

Our discussion about sharing information with deafblind young people with complex needs will include:

- How to choose what information to share
- How to give information for various presentations of deafblindness
- How to support other people to share information.
- Examples of ways that we have shared information with deafblind children and young people in relation to the changes that are happening around them

As a team we have needed to develop our skills to provide online video sessions with parents, carers and individuals who are deafblind. Case studies will be discussed with a focus on the technology required, the type of support that can take place via this means and the impact of this input.