

Position statement: Time for action on unsupported hearing loss

Call to action

The Hearing Loss and Deafness Alliance calls on all policymakers and commissioners across the UK to recognise and act on the evidence that

- Unsupported Hearing loss is a major and growing public health issue
- Early diagnosis and the right support mean that people with hearing loss do not have to be disadvantaged, and the impact and costs associated with hearing loss can be significantly reduced.

The scale of the problem

In the UK over 12 million people have a hearing loss and due to the increasing prevalence of age-related this is set to grow to more than 14 million people by 2035.

Impacts

Unsupported hearing loss is a major and growing public health issue. This is because without the right support, people with hearing loss can find it difficult to communicate and are at greater risk of unemployment, social isolation, depression and other mental health issues.

Cost-effective prevention

Independent evidence from respect organisations around the world shows that early diagnosis and support can help prevent the risks and costs associated with unsupported hearing loss. That early diagnosis and support is very cost-effective for health systems and the wider economy. And people with hearing loss do not have to suffer the personal costs and impacts associated with delays in care and support.*

Support our call to action

The Alliance is committed to working with all stakeholders to help tackle unmet hearing needs across the UK. To work with us and learn more about the work we do [please contact us](#).

Ferguson MA, Kitterick PT, Chong LY, Edmondson-Jones M, Barker F, Hoare DJ. Hearing aids for mild to moderate hearing loss in adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD012023. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012023.pub2. Accessed 08 August 2023.

NICE, 2018, Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management (NG98)

World report on hearing. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.