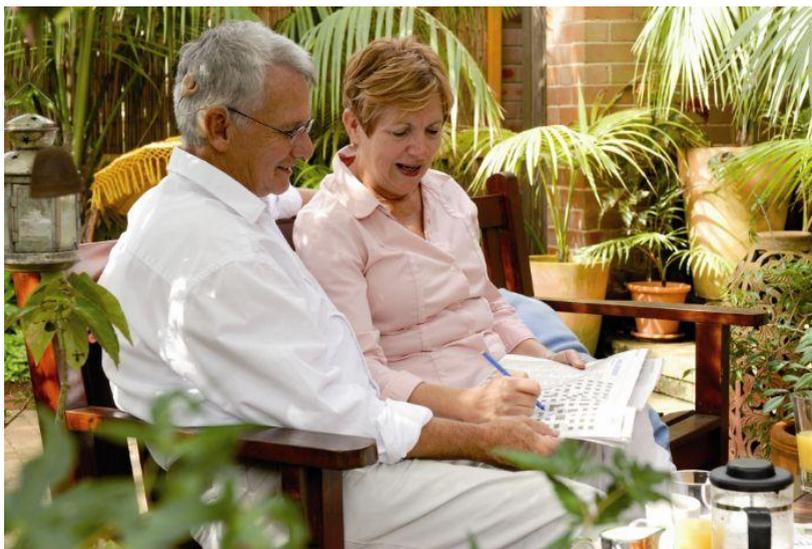


Hearing screening for life



Hearing screening for life



Hearing loss is a major public health

issue affecting over 10 million people in the UK – one in six of the population. It impacts on communication, causing difficulties for people interacting with their family and friends, and can lead to social isolation and depression. It reduces the ability to access services including healthcare and in particular, new evidence

suggests that there is a link between hearing loss and dementia.

Despite the difficulties it can cause, there are an estimated four million people in the UK with unaddressed hearing loss. It takes people an average of 10 years of deteriorating hearing to seek help after they start noticing symptoms. Hearing loss is especially prevalent among older people, with an estimated 62% of those aged 65 and over having some form of hearing loss.

However, evidence suggests that only 3% of 55-74 year olds have hearing aids.

Unmanaged
Hearing Loss is
associated with

Social Isolation

Dementia

Poorer Quality of Life

Depression and
anxiety

Difficulties accessing
health & social care

Poorer diagnosis and
management of long
term conditions

Hearing loss can isolate people like no other condition, damaging their quality of life and putting them at risk of mental health problems; this makes managing other health conditions and ordinary day to day tasks much harder.

By the time many people seek treatment, around 75 years, their ability to adapt and benefit from a hearing aid is greatly reduced. The number of older people in our society is growing, and the issue of unaddressed hearing loss will become increasingly prevalent unless action is taken now.

We are calling for the introduction of a hearing screening programme for people aged 65.

Stephen Lloyd MP

Hearing screening for life



I had problems hearing what people were saying when I was at meetings or when I went to talks or on courses. I had particular difficulty hearing my young grandchildren. They laughed, in a loving way, when I kept saying 'pardon'. I found it really difficult to hear the television and had it on very loud or with subtitles, which made me feel increasingly anti-social.

It was quite hard work concentrating all the time and I recognise that I was lip reading quite a lot. I was also increasingly frustrated at not hearing what was being said and this was becoming an embarrassment to me.

Having hearing aids has improved my quality of life. Now that I wear them, I think it was ridiculous that I put off getting them.

Geraldine, Bristol



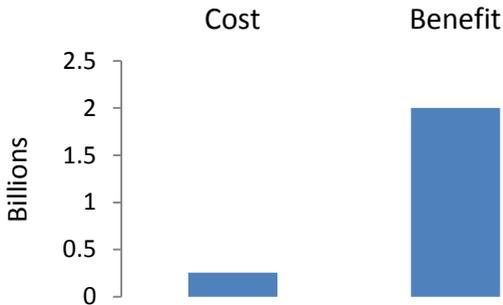
Only one in three people who could benefit from hearing aids has accessed them

The screening may change attitudes about how people help you. If they see some with a white stick they help them but when you say you can't hear they just shout at you.

I have MS and hearing Loss and it is hard enough coping with your condition but adding another dimension you have to consider makes it hard and you have to keep your spirits up which is something I can do.

Simon, Beverly

Hearing screening for life



At a cost of £255m over 10 years, £2bn of savings can be delivered through the introduction of a hearing screening programme and interventions for people at the age of 65

We are a campaign made up of a number of different charities, campaigning organisations and experts. We come from many different backgrounds – some members look at social issues, some at long term conditions and some at age related concerns. But what we all share is a recognition that unaddressed hearing loss is detrimental to the long term health and wellbeing of the people we represent. Hearing loss can isolate people like no other condition, damaging their quality of life, putting them at risk of mental health problems and reducing their chances of accessing healthcare in a timely and effective way, which makes managing other health conditions and issues much harder.

We are calling for the introduction of a hearing Screening programme for people aged 65