

We delivered a project with NHS England that explores healthcare inequalities for CYP with complex needs...

There are **6000** children and young people in residential special schools in the UK with learning disabilities, autism or both.

Some students find it **hard**, or even **impossible** to partake in certain healthcare tests due to communication challenges or sensory difficulties, meaning conditions can go **undiagnosed**.



NHS England have committed to taking steps to **close these inequality gaps** for CYP in special schools, with a particular focus on **vision, dentistry and hearing**.



Hearing Checks in Residential Special Schools Seashell/NHS Feasibility Study

Specialists at Seashell explored a **behavioural approach** to prepare students for a hearing check, **reducing fear, anxiety** and the need for costly medical intervention.



Seashell's Principal Audiologist and Speech & Language Therapist created a **training package** that enabled highly familiar education staff to upskill and deliver **meaningful hearing checks** to their students.

“[the project] helped challenge the dialogue that it’s not possible to test these children and young people.”

Ruth Thomsen, NHS Scientific Director



The project's learning will contribute to a national programme to develop a service model and toolkit for the wider roll out of hearing checks in residential special school/colleges in England.