

Title: European young people with cochlear implants: developing confidence and communication

Presenter: Lorna Lord

Bio: Lorna Lord coordinates the family programme at The Ear Foundation. This role involves planning, managing and delivering programmes for deaf children, young people, adults and their families to help them maximize the latest hearing technologies and develop communications skills. As part of this role Lorna coordinates and delivers a summer residential programme for young cochlear implant users from across Europe. Lorna is the parent of a bilaterally implanted daughter. Lorna has a background in Human Resources and Organisational Development.

Abstract: With the latest hearing technologies available today being a young deaf person in 2013 has changed. Young cochlear implant users have mixed views about their identity, if they are deaf, hearing or both, and therefore need opportunities to be together to develop an identity of their own. Young people with cochlear implants need to develop good communication skills in order to build social independence and self-esteem. To address this need The Ear Foundation developed a week long course to give young cochlear implant users aged from 11 to 16 years old the opportunity to learn and develop together in areas that are important to build their confidence and self esteem: to meet other young people with a cochlear implant; to develop social independence; to improve their English and spoken language; to expand their knowledge of other countries; to improve their communication skills; to develop international friendships and to improve their perception of being deaf and wearing a cochlear implant.

Learning Objectives/Learners will be able to:

1. Describe the challenges that young deaf people face in a hearing world.
2. Understand the purpose of this residential programme
3. Understand the impact that this residential has on young deaf people's confidence and self esteem.