

CareTech 100 Voices Initiative with Smartbox

CareTech and Smartbox are excited to announce an innovative new project - 100 Voices.

Following CareTech's acquisition of Smartbox in October 2020, our partnership will provide the best augmentative and assistive technology solutions to CareTech's service users nationwide.

The 100 Voices initiative will ensure that Smartbox technology reaches adults and children in CareTech care homes, specialist schools and complex needs services. It will provide individuals with a voice and in turn allow them to live a more independent life.

We recognise the importance of contact with loved ones especially during the current situation. Smartbox's technology enables users to keep in touch with friends and family, control the devices around them, browse the internet, use social media and access other programmes.

Nkeesha, 37, is the first CareTech service user to benefit from a Smartbox device as part of the 100 Voices initiative. She has Cerebral Palsy and struggles to be understood by other people. With limited movement it makes it difficult and time consuming for her to control a computer or touch screen device with her hands.

Nkeesha tried a Smartbox Grid Pad communication aid with eye gaze technology for the first time and was instantly able to interact with the screen. Using Smartbox Grid 3 software she explored different types of keyboards and resources for text communication. The predictive features and chat history were a big hit and she was able to quickly compose messages.

Nkeesha was in good spirits during the session, using the Smartbox Grid Pad to say *'This is great'* and *'I am going to be the best.'*

Haroon Sheikh, Group CEO at CareTech:

"We are delighted that together with Smartbox we can introduce this best in class communication technology in CareTech social care settings. For our service users with complex speech needs this opens up a world of opportunity for them to live, learn, work and engage in their communities."

Dougal Hawes, Managing Director at Smartbox:

"Nkeesha is the first person to benefit from the 100 Voices initiative and it's fantastic to already see the impact and profound difference that Smartbox technology will make to the lives of CareTech service users in diverse social care settings."

As part of the 100 voices initiative we look forward to rolling out Smartbox devices to a range of CareTech Adults, Children and Specialist services over the next 3 months.



Nkeesha trying a Smartbox Grid Pad communication device