

## Paediatric Audiology Progression Pathway Information Sheet for Organisations

### Purpose

UKAS accreditation plays a vital role in assuring the quality and reliability of physiological science services across the NHS. The NHS 2025–26 Contract (Section 41.5) recommends that all Paediatric Audiology services engage with accreditation.

Reference: [08a-nhssc-2526-contract-technical-guidance-final.pdf](https://www.nhs.uk/consult/ia20220226contracttechnicalguidancefinal.pdf).

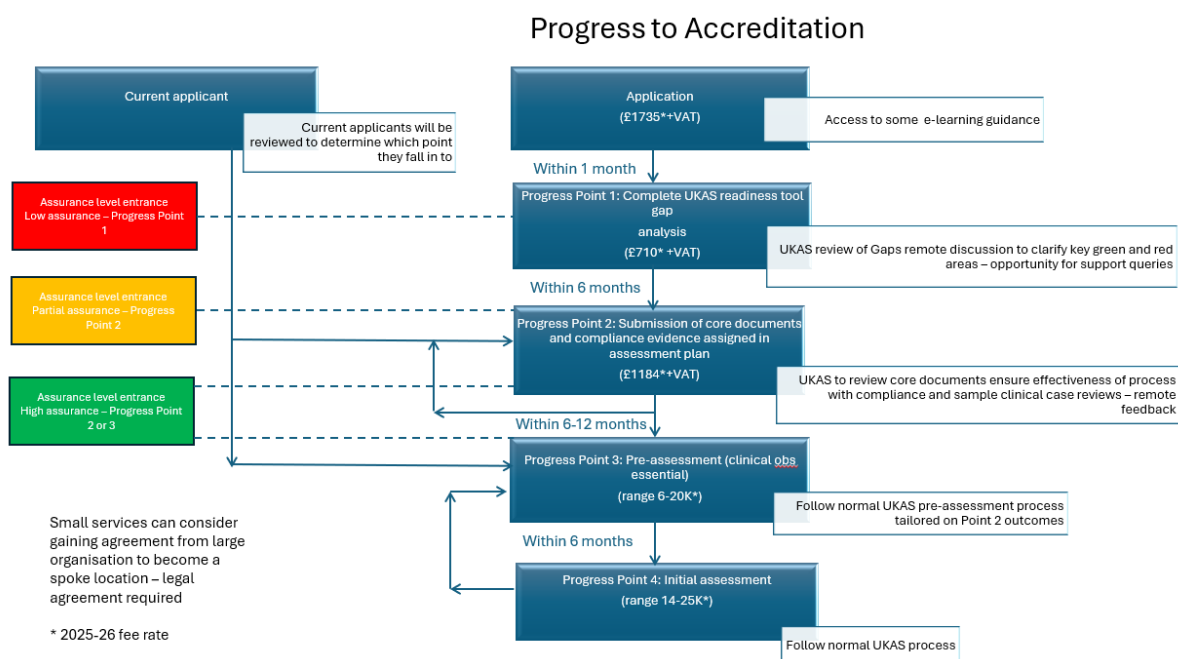
It is widely acknowledged that many Audiology services currently face challenges in meeting the accreditation requirements. These challenges include:

- Limited quality assurance infrastructure
- Resource and staffing constraints
- Financial and time limitations
- Lack of organisational understanding of the process

To address these barriers, UKAS has developed a supportive progression pathway to help services work step-by-step towards achieving full accreditation under the IQIPS:2023 Standard.

### Progression pathway overview

The pathway is designed to provide structured guidance and support at four key progress points, allowing services to prepare gradually for full UKAS accreditation.



### Step by Step process

#### Initial Engagement

Services not yet engaged with UKAS can begin by submitting an [Application for Accreditation](#). Upon submission:

- Access is granted to an e-learning module providing an overview of the accreditation process and expectations
- For more detailed training the [IQIPS:2023 Standard Accreditation Course](#) is available at a cost.
- You will be contacted to discuss your requirement whether you are engaging in the progression pathway or going straight to pre or initial assessment.

#### Progress point 1: Readiness review

- **Action:** Complete the [Readiness Gap Analysis Tool](#) within **1 month** of UKAS confirming your application.
- **Output:**
  - A Readiness Report is generated based on your responses.
  - A remote review session (via MS Teams, up to 2 hours) is held with UKAS to discuss the findings and outline next steps.
  - A documented summary of the discussion and outcomes is provided.
- **Goal:** Establish a baseline understanding of your service's current position.

#### Progress point 2: Evidence submission and Review

- **Timeline:** Submit progress evidence **within 6 months** of completing Point 1.
- **Action:**
  - UKAS will provide an assessment plan requesting specific documentation and clinical case examples.
  - Upload required evidence to the customer SharePoint portal.
  - Participate in a second remote review session (up to 2 hours).
- **Outcome:**
  - A progress report is issued to show advancement towards meeting the standard.
- If the evidence is sufficient, the service moves to Progress Point 3.
- If further development is needed, this point may be repeated until readiness is confirmed.

#### Progress point 3: pre-assessment

- **Purpose:** To evaluate clinical practice and the quality management system onsite to ensure readiness for full assessment.
- **Inclusions:**
  - Clinical observations
  - Onsite review of documentation and procedures
- **Process:**
  - Managed via the standard UKAS process
  - Includes a fee estimate and detailed assessment plan
  - A formal pre-assessment report is issued to guide next steps
- **Goal:** Determine an appropriate timeline and ensure confidence for initial assessment.

#### Progress point 4: Initial Assessment

- **Action:** Full assessment by a UKAS team, including:
  - Technical assessors
  - A lay assessor
- **Outcome:**
  - If successful, a recommendation for and offer of accreditation is made.
  - Any required improvement actions must be addressed and reviewed.
  - Final decision and grant of accreditation is made by an independent UKAS decision maker.
  - The service enters a 4-year accreditation cycle.

## Progress to Accreditation

