

Deaf Sector Partnership Review

24th January 2017

Attending:

Neil Bird, Voluntary Action Fund

Hilary Third, Scottish Government

Derek Todd, Deaf Sector Partnership Co-ordinator

Damian Barry, British Deaf Association

Aidan McCorry, Deaf Action

Alison Hendry, Deaf Action

Shaurna Dickson, Deaf Action

Katie Rafferty, National Deaf Children's Society

Frankie McLean, Deaf Action

Suzanne Abbate, Deafblind Scotland

Mandy Reid, Scottish Council on Deafness

Ken Hallsworth, Deafblind Scotland

Ruth Dorman, Deafblind Scotland

Helen Morgans-Wenhold, British Deaf Association Scotland

Stephen Joyce, Deafblind Scotland (Attended as Trainer for the morning session)

Avril Hepner, British Deaf Association Scotland

Jo Bowie, National Deaf Children's Society

Angela Bonomy, National Deaf Children's Society

Communication Support Professionals

For Deafblind Awareness Training:

Jennifer Carmichael, Guide/Communicator

Linda Thomson, Sign Language Interpreter

Amy Cheskin, Sign Language Interpreter

For the full meeting:

Paula McGuire, Electronic Notetaker

David Milligan, Sign Language Interpreter

Janice Murdoch, Sign Language Interpreter

Mark Sherwin, Sign Language Interpreter

The first part of the Review Day was Deafblind Awareness.

Review Meeting

What people wanted from the day?

1. Values and how we work with each other

Mutual understanding

- being open and honest/trustworthy
- discussion on challenges and solutions
- connecting again
- being open with information and sharing
- support
- confirmation that the DSP is working well together
- recognition of the partnership aspect of the DSP

2. How we support each other as a partnership

Engagement

- with each other as a partnership
- Reflection on how the NAG and feeder NAGs have evolved
- to reach people with Ushers who use BSL
- Capacity building with BSL users
- Roadshows – working together

3. Planning

Clear plan until end of June 2017

- what is our focus for this period?
- increase opportunities to work together
- sharing Deafblind awareness
- Shared diary for final quarter

What happens after July 2017?

- as a partnership?
- when the BSL National Plan is in place?
- sharing knowledge with others outside the partnership
- clarify what the Scottish Government's position is on BSL (Scotland) Act implementation.

What has the DSP achieved in the past 6 months?

Achievements and positive stories:

- Derek as the DSP Co-ordinator
- Engaging with young deaf people in Orkney
- Raised the profile of BSL across Scotland and the rest of the world, and broadening who the BSL communities are
- The SCoD Star Award to the YNAG
- The work of the NAG and the BSL representatives
- Co-chair of the NAG who is Deafblind
- The Scottish Government's BSL Policy Officer
- Continuation of the DSP
- The "usual suspects" have not been involved as much; other people in the Deaf community have been more involved.
- The growth in confidence of the young people involved in the NAG and the YNAG
- Use of social media and technology so that people are more engaged
- BSL videos on the Scottish Parliament website

Challenges and how we solve them

a. Values and how we work with each other

- What can people bring to the table? What individual skills do members of the DSP have? We need to share our skills and experiences
- What is the DSP legacy at the end of June 2017?
- Co-operation and inclusion and we don't all have a shared understanding of what that means. We need to make time to get to know each other
- Need to develop a shared understanding of what partnership working is and what the language means
- Seek opportunities to work better together and get to know each other. What are our shared values?
- Share examples of where we have valued each other and worked well together

b. How we support each other as a partnership

- working with young deaf people across Scotland so they can represent their communities in the future

- continuing to empower Deaf and Deafblind people who do not necessarily engage to be more engaged with planning in the future
- working more closely with each other. Seek opportunities for working together
- Finding a balance between deaf and hearing colleagues, continuing to discuss and resolve issues/challenges
- supporting local public bodies to write their plans, how we do this as a partnership
- Planning for future activities together, to ensure collaboration and effective working

c. Planning

- time and geography
- Communications – email v face-to-face
- Need be aware of what the other partnership organisations are doing and what services they can offer
- Having a shared calendar – like the SCoD Calendar on the website
- A Deafblind Participation Officer to offer support to all DSP partners so that Deafblind people are more included
 - Scottish Government to have employment opportunities to increase the number of Deaf and Deafblind people in specific departments in the government
 - A new board of National Advisory Group members

Scottish Government's position

Hilary will be speaking to all the DSP partner organisations before the end of the funding period to find out what they think is important for the future. Then she will brief the Minister who has the final say.

There may be less money on the table once the BSL National Plan is published.

The DSP has to look at how we share learning. We need to continue to involve BSL users in the implementation of national actions and development of authority plans.

No decisions need to be made just now about whether or not there is a need for a new NAG for the second National Plan.

Early thinking / Initial ideas from DSP organisations about what they could do from July onwards

BDA could lead and develop useful forums in the first instance, open meetings and feed back into public bodies. They can listen to the deaf community, take feedback and provide training including how to work with hearing people and make sure people can engage with local authorities.

Deaf Action could build on the good youth work that has happened by engaging with and educating young deaf people on how they can influence local authorities and society; including feeding that into local authorities and public bodies to help with their local plans. They could continue to work with NDCS and their local networks.

NDCS could work with families of newly recognised deaf children but also the Young Campaigners group which is a politically active group of young people, who can act as mentors for the others. They could carry on doing education, work through the local group network and empower the Young Campaigners to have their voices heard.

Deafblind Scotland could look at the integration on Deafblind BSL users, including those who use tactile BSL, into the Deaf Community, so that they are no longer marginalised and “out there” – one language, one community. Carry out more Deafblind awareness so that more of society are aware of the needs and skills of Deafblind people and are not scared of engaging.

SCoD could continue to grow its membership across the public sector, private sector and third sector to ensure accessibility and how people are involved in the statutory consultation groups across Scotland. There is work being done on the promotion of inclusive communication and looking at templates for public sector bodies working with deaf and deafblind people.

Further discussions will take place with all organisations.

The next review meeting will take place in June 17 and we will focus on working as a partnership and what we can do better, including what works well and ideas and solutions for making improvements.

Full notes of the day have been circulated.

Deaf Sector Partnership



Effecting change, equality
& access for BSL in Scotland