



Third Quarter Summary of Deaf Sector Partnership work – January to March 2017

Total Grant for DSP: £450,000

Outcomes:

1. To support the development of the BSL National Advisory Group (the NAG):
 - NAG 4 meeting took place on 1st November 2016. Feeders NAGs on hold at the present time as the NAG develops the draft BSL National Plan for consultation
 - Working together to ensure the BSL National Plan and the consultation is fully accessible and easy to understand.
 - Joint working has successfully increased during this quarter

2. To support people whose first or preferred language is BSL (including Deaf BSL users, Deafblind BSL users, Deaf/Deafblind people from equality and diversity groups whose first or preferred language is BSL, and people with additional language/support needs whose first or preferred language is BSL) to be as involved as they want to be in the development of the first BSL National Plan:
 - Engagement across Scotland with Deaf and Deafblind people at deaf clubs and deaf groups and consultation events, including themed events.
 - Continued development of online resources including social media. Consultation information is available on Facebook as well as on the Consultation Hub.
 - Engagement specifically with young deaf people, especially those who are still at school.

3. To support public bodies to be more inclusive of people whose first or preferred language is BSL and to support them to meet their duties under the BSL (Scotland) Act:

- Awareness raising of the BSL National Plan, DSP and the BSL (Scotland) Act with public bodies across Scotland
- The Deaf Action Training Programme is ongoing.

Successes

Engagement with young people at deaf learner events – young people are taken through their day in the morning and then in the afternoon, their tasks and living experience are related to the BSL National Plan, which makes it real for them. This type of consultation is also being used with parents and teachers so that they can contribute to the BSL National Plan as well as supporting their young people to become more involved.

The work of the DSP was featured in the See Hear Programme on the BSL (Scotland) Act.

Challenges

Reaching Deafblind people who are not members of Deafblind Scotland and who are not necessarily in contact with local deaf organisations, for example, people with Usher's.

Ensuring all people whose first or preferred language is BSL across Scotland will be involved in the consultation on the draft BSL National Plan, including those from protected characteristic groups. EO monitoring and gathering of postcodes should ensure few gaps in geographical spread.

Making sure all the information produced by the BSL NAG is accessible for young deaf people, Deafblind people and Deaf people with additional language/communication support needs.

Ensuring the YNAG representatives are not over-burdened by extra work and remembering they have exams coming up that must take priority.

Who can monitor the making of BSL videos? And who monitors attitudes and comments on young people's presentation and BSL skills.

Provision of BSL/English Interpreters at some events has been a problem especially where the DSP members are not BSL users

themselves. With planning this should not have been a problem as the DSP should be sharing resources across the events.

Ensuring the flow of information across the partnership and with communities and key stakeholders

Communications are still getting lost as not everything is going through the Co-ordinator. DSP members are forgetting on occasion. The shared calendar of events was not shared soon enough and so there has been a doubling up of the spread of events.

What will we do next?

The next quarter will be spent completing the consultation on the BSL National Plan and completing the outcomes from this financial period. Planning for the future is dependent on what funding is available to the DSP for the next financial period.