

Case Study - Deaf Sector Partnership

Background

The Scottish Government Equality Unit funded five of the six Deaf organisations to take forward the preparatory work on the British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill with the Scottish Government, listed public authorities and Deaf/Deafblind BSL users in Scotland.

The work is focused on two primary outcomes:

1. Engaging with the Deaf/Deafblind BSL communities (including Deafblind people who use tactile BSL) so they can contribute to the development of BSL plans required by the Act; and
2. Supporting public bodies to better understand/meet the needs of Deaf and Deafblind BSL users.

Following a parliamentary debate and passage of the BSL (Scotland) Bill on 17th September 2015 the bill became the **British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Act 2015** and Royal Assent was received on 22nd October 2015. The Act aims to promote the use and understanding of British Sign Language (BSL), principally by means of BSL plans.

The Deaf Sector Partnership (DSP) is made up of **six delivery partners** and **two support partners**. The delivery partners are:

- **British Deaf Association Scotland**
- **Deaf Action**
- **Deaf Connections**
- **Deafblind Scotland**
- **National Deaf Children's Society Scotland**
- **Scottish Council on Deafness**

The Scottish Government directs the DSP, and the **Voluntary Action Fund** provides support and monitoring.

Please see <http://deafsectorpartnership.net/> for further information.