

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015:

Perth & Kinross Council



Final Draft BSL Plan 2018-2024

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<https://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

Phone: 01738 475000 (general enquiries)

Text: 07824 498145



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SECTION 2:

Introduction

This is the final draft BSL plan for Perth & Kinross Council. The BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 says each Local Authority must make a local plan. This plan has to be started by 2017 and enforced by 2023. The Scottish Government BSL Plan 2017 – 2023, was developed with D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users and people who work with them.

In the local plan are draft actions Perth & Kinross Council for 2018 – 2024. The local plan has the same long term aims as the national plan. This plan is part of the Sensory Impairment Strategy in Perth and Kinross. The strategy is organised by the 'See Hear Steering Group' which meets regularly and has people from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

A Working Group was made for a short time to write this plan. The group involved officers from different Council service areas and partner organisations. BSL users and people who work with them also took part to tell us what they would like in the plan. The Plan will be finalised following further meetings with local groups and talks with BSL users. We want BSL service users to stay involved as this plan moves forward in future. This will make a partnership which will continue during the use of the plan and make sure that it is checked.

The plan aims to protect equal access to services, and supports for BSL users in Perth and Kinross.

Perth & Kinross Council will contribute to the national progress report in 2020.

If you wish to comment on this final draft plan please email equalities@pkc.gov.uk or write to the address below. If you are able to attend a local meeting you can tell us what you think then. If you want to make a BSL video answer please contact us.

Name of lead officer/who to contact with any questions:

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or

David McPhee: Equalities Team Leader

Address: Perth & Kinross Council, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH

Email: equalities@pkc.gov.uk

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SECTION 3:

Short summary – the aim of the plan and what is in it

The aim of this BSL Plan for Perth and Kinross Council is to set out actions which will improve the way BSL users find out about our services and make sure BSL users have equal access to them. We will also work more closely with BSL users so they can provide help and tell us how to make our services more accessible.

The plan will help us work with partners such as Live Active Leisure, St. Johnstone Community Trust and CulturePK to make sure BSL users can access and enjoy leisure and culture opportunities in Perth and Kinross.

Here are some of the things we plan to put in place:

- Make sure that the Contact Scotland - BSL online interpreting service is known as a way of contacting Perth & Kinross Council, Live Active Leisure, CulturePK and St. Johnstone Football Club. This will be a first point of contact for people if they need it. We want BSL users to tell us if this system works for them.
- We will work with BSL users to help us develop communication support signs for use in public access offices or reception areas.
- We will look at the best way to use BSL translation and interpreting services, so that staff know how and when to use qualified BSL interpreters or other appropriate support for people attending meetings. We will ask BSL users to help us get this right.
- School staff will learn how to communicate better with Parents who use BSL, so they can be better involved in their child's education.
- Staff in council services who work directly with the public will be offered training courses to learn how to communicate effectively with BSL users. We will ask BSL users to tell us which staff we should be training first.
- All council staff will be offered opportunities to learn about BSL culture and Deaf awareness– sometimes this will be internet learning. We will ask D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users to tell us what should be taught to staff.
- We will work with BSL users to make the Perth & Kinross Council Website and other digital methods (mobiles or pads) more accessible.
- We will find out what other options might be available for people who wish to learn BSL who do not work for the Council.

- We have used the information from BSL users in making this plan. We want to do this for future plans too.

SECTION 4

Draft BSL National Plan for Perth & Kinross Council

4.1: Across all our services

We share the long-term aim for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users”

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the national plan. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

The 2011 Census said that there are 255 BSL users in Perth and Kinross.

By 2024:

[2] The following will help us look at existing information we have about BSL users in the Council. It will help us find out who might be using our services and where support might be needed.

- We will start to keep information for Council house tenants who use BSL;
- We will make sure that any information for BSL users of social care services is recorded properly;
- We will make sure we keep information properly for anyone who works in the Council who uses BSL.
- We will make our school Hearing Support Service keeps information regarding children and young people who are BSL users.

[3, 4] The following will help us improve access to our information and services for BSL users, including making our website more accessible to BSL users.

- We will work with BSL users to make the Perth & Kinross Council Website and other digital methods (mobiles or pads) more accessible.

[5] The following will help us to promote the use of the Scottish Government's nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay services called 'contactSCOTLAND-BSL' to staff and to local BSL users. This is a free service which allows BSL users to contact public and their sector services and for these services to contact them.

- We will make contact Scotland – available in Perth and Kinross. This will be a first point of contact for people if they need it. We want BSL users to tell us if this system works for them. We have put it [on the Council website](#) to start with.

[6] The following will allow us to offer staff who work with BSL users appropriate BSL awareness training.

- Staff in council services who work directly with the public will be offered training courses to learn how to communicate effectively with BSL users. We will ask BSL users to tell us which staff we should be training first.
- All council staff will be offered opportunities to learn about BSL culture and Deaf awareness– sometimes this will be internet learning. We will ask D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users to tell us what should be taught to staff.

4.2: Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

We share the long-term aim for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL”

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 10, 11 and 12 in the national plan. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

By 2024:

[10,11,12] Hearing Support staff in schools can provide staff working with younger children with information about BSL and Deaf culture. They can also help staff to find information that is available in BSL, so that they can meet the needs of families with a D/deaf or Deafblind child.

4.3: School Education

We share the long-term aim for school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child’s education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school”

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

By 2024, we will:

[17, 18] help the Scottish Government with their work to find out the level of BSL held by teachers and support staff working with D/deaf and Deafblind pupils in schools. We will use any new guidance for teachers or support staff working with pupils who use BSL.

Currently within Perth and Kinross teachers of Deaf children hold mandatory BSL qualifications at the required level. Education & Children's Services can provide appropriate BSL support to meet the needs of pupils using BSL. We note that BSL community members would like the level of qualification to be higher.

[20, 21] use advice developed by Education Scotland to

a) improve the way that teachers work better with parents who use BSL and

b) make sure that parents who use BSL know how they can be better involved in their child's education.

[23] use information from our schools to help the SCILT programme of work to support the learning of BSL in schools for hearing pupils as part of the 1+2 programme. We would also share information which works well in other areas.

4.4: Training, Work and Social Security

We share the long-term goal for training, work and social security set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

"BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland's economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career"

Our Actions

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 28, 34 and 35 in the national plan. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

By 2024:

[28] Hearing Support staff can help pupils and students with BSL find out about their career and learning choices and the transition process.

[34] The Employment Support Team in the Council and the Perth and Kinross Employability Network will work in partnership with Deaf Links, Tayside Deaf Hub.

Today, Deaf Action delivers a range of services to the estimated 950,000 people in Scotland with sensory support needs, including those who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing. The Deaf Links Employability Service is a One Stop Shop to Employability and job retention for people with a Sensory Impairment throughout Tayside and provides:

- *One to One employment advice, job support and coaching.*
- *Information, advice and guidance for employers to support sustained employment.*
- *In-work support providing guidance on Access to Work.*
- *Interview techniques; volunteering; work placements.*
- *Building employability skills*

[35] All employability partners in Perth and Kinross know about the UK Governments "Access to Work" scheme. The Perth and Kinross Employability Network meets every 3 months and Access to Work awareness sessions are part of those meetings. The local Job Centre+ team are also able to provide information.

4.5: Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing

We share the long-term aim for health, mental health and wellbeing set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will have access to the information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives”

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 40, 45(a), 48 and 49 in the national plan. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

By 2024 we will:

- [40] a) let BSL users know about health and social care information available in BSL (produced by NHS Health Scotland and NHS24), and
b) ask BSL users to help us develop local information in BSL.

[45a] Through Health and Social Care Integration Boards, make sure services like psychological therapies can be offered on a fair and equal basis to BSL users.

[48] Improve access to information about sport, and to local sports facilities and sporting opportunities. We will do this by working with local sport and leisure sector organisations to raise awareness of BSL information for staff and service users. We

will also provide contacts and information about community sport and leisure opportunities. We would like BSL users to help us with this.

[49] Make sure that any local work about social isolation includes needs of BSL users. We will encourage people to use Self-Directed Support options in a way that might help them access appropriate supports, including translation services, to address social isolation.

4.6: Culture and the Arts

We share the long-term aim for culture and the arts set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will have full access to the cultural life of Scotland, an equal opportunity to enjoy and contribute to culture and the arts, and are encouraged to share BSL and Deaf Culture with the people of Scotland”

Our Actions in this section are the same as actions 54, 55, 56 and 57 in the national plan. You can see these numbers alongside our actions.

By 2024, we will:

[54] Help BSL users to take part in culture and the arts as participants, audience members and professionals. Culture PK will increase use of volunteers trained in BSL and use signed video.

[55] Help and support BSL users who would like a career in culture and the arts with volunteering and work experience opportunities made available in Culture PK. We will also direct BSL individuals interested in theatre work to Solar Bear who work with theatres to develop D/deaf Actors and backstage crew.

[56] Put more information in BSL about culture and the arts on relevant websites and at venues in Culture PK. We will work with local networks such as Perth Deaf Circle and Listen Up schools group to help us with this.

[57] Improve access to the historical environment, cultural events and performing arts and film for BSL users. We will look at the best way to do this which may be by using shadow interpreters, deaf presenters, captioning and signed videos in Culture PK. We will work with the Council Events Team to make our major events more accessible for BSL users. We will look at other options which might make Perth and Kinross a good place to visit for BSL users. We will speak to the local cinema about options available for BSL users attending subtitled films.

4.7: Justice

None of the actions relating to Justice in the BSL National Plan have implications for local authorities so this section is not relevant to this Plan.

4.8: Democracy

We share the long-term aim for democracy set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies”

Our Actions in this section are the same as action 65 in the national plan as indicated by the number alongside.

By 2024, we will:

[65] Promote the Access to Elected Office Fund locally, which can meet the additional costs of BSL users wishing to stand for selection or election in local or Scottish Parliament elections. Information on the Access to Elected Office Fund which is run by Inclusion Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government remains open for by-elections for an elected member of a local authority or for a constituency seat in the Scottish Parliament will be available on www.pkc.gov.uk/elections webpage as well as being highlighted within nomination pack material. A link to the contactScotland-BSL will also be available on this webpage. We note that BSL users wish political parties to involve them more in local and national democracy and can let our councillors know.

SECTION 5:

What happens next?

- Final version of the plan will be published by October 2018.
- The final version of this plan will be available in BSL and in English. We would like BSL users to approve the BSL version before it is published.
- Please contact either Rhona Pollok Policy and Planning Officer or David McPhee Equalities Team Leader [contact details on cover of Plan] if you want to continue to be involved with the Council as we further develop/implement the actions in our plan.