



BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015



BSL Plan



Introduction & Information



This is the Easy Read British Sign Language plan for Perth & Kinross Council.



The law says that each local authority must have started a plan by 2017 and deliver their by plan by 2023.



The Scottish Governments BSL plan was developed with D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users and people who work with them.



The Perth & Kinross local plan is part of our Sensory Impairment Strategy which is organised by the See Hear Steering Group.



They meet regularly and include people from the Council, NHS, Police, Fire Service and other public bodies, as well as people from local voluntary groups.



BSL users contributed to the local plan. The final plan will be delivered with BSL users to help make sure that the actions are taken



Perth & Kinross Council will make sure the updates on the final local plan are included in the National Progress Report on the BSL (Scotland) Act in 2020

The aims of the plan.



The local BSL plan for Perth & Kinross Council sets out actions to improve how BSL users find out about our services.



Accessible

The local plan also sets out the importance of working more closely with BSL users so they can tell us how to make our services more accessible to them.



The plan will help us work with partners such as Live Active Leisure, St Johnstone Community Trust, Culture Perth and Kinross and Horsecross Arts.



This will help to make sure that BSL users can access and enjoy leisure and culture opportunities in Perth and Kinross.

The aims of the plan.



To find out about other options available to educate people outwith the Council about BSL culture and deaf awareness.



To work with BSL users to make the Perth and Kinross Council website and other digital methods of communicating more accessible.



Accessible
Information
Standard



To take what has been learned from working with BSL users to develop this plan into other plans developed by the council in the future.

Here are some of the things we plan to put in place with the support of BSL users;



To make sure that BSL users know they can use the contactSCOTLAND – BSL online interpreting service.



This will be a first point of contact for Perth & Kinross Council and other local organisations if BSL users need it.



To ask BSL users for feedback on the use of contactSCOTLAND and let us know if it works for them or not.



Support the installation of new communication support signs, developed with BSL users for public offices and reception areas.

Family Support



Hearing support staff in schools can provide staff working with younger children with information about BSL and Deaf culture.

Education



We will help the Scottish Government to find out the level of BSL held by teachers and support staff in schools.



We will use the information to help the Scottish Centre for Information on Language & Teaching Research (SCILT) programme.

Training



We will train Council staff who work directly with the public on how to communicate with BSL users. Starting with the most important services identified by BSL users.



We will train staff on the use of BSL translation and interpreting services.



We will train school staff on how to communicate better with parents who use BSL so they can be better involved in their child's education.



We will offer all Council staff opportunities to learn about BSL culture and deaf awareness.

Employment



BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce.



Hearing support staff can help pupils and students with BSL to find out about their career and learning choices and the transition process.



The Employment Support Team and Perth & Kinross Employability Network will work in partnership with Deaf Links, Tayside Deaf Hub.



All employability partners in Perth & Kinross know about the Government's Access to Work Scheme. The local JobCentrePlus team are also able to provide further information.

Health, including Social Care, Mental Health & Wellbeing



We will let BSL users know about health & social care information available in BSL (produced by NHS Health Scotland and NHS24)



We will ask BSL users to help us develop local information in BSL.



Through the Perth & Kinross Health and Social Care Integration Board, we will make sure services like psychological therapies can be offered on a fair and equal basis to BSL users.



Accessible
Information
Standard

We will improve access to information about sport and to local sports facilities and opportunities. We will work with networks such as Perth Deaf Circle and Listen Up Schools group to help us.

Transport



Information

We agreed to ensure BSL users are aware of how to access public transport information locally.



We will work with local transport providers to develop Deaf/BSL awareness training for their staff.

Culture and the Arts



We will help BSL users to take part in culture and the arts.



We will help support BSL users who would like a career in culture and the arts with volunteering and work experience opportunities made available in Culture Perth and Kinross and Horsecross Arts.



More information will be put on relevant websites and other places. We will work with local networks to help with this.



We will work with the council events officer to make our major events more accessible for BSL users.

Contact us



Text: 07824 498145



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



equalities@pkc.gov.uk



01738 475000 (General Enquiries)

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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

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