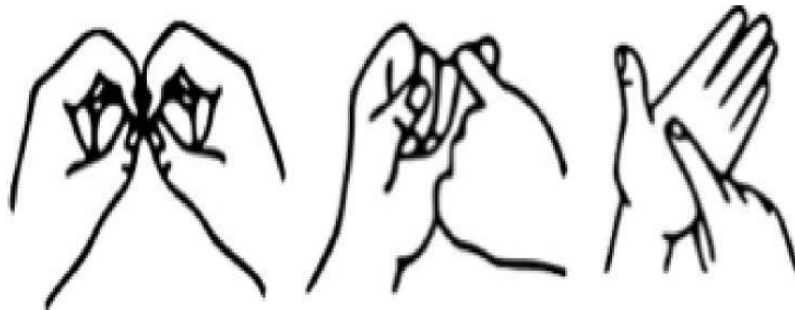




British Sign Language Plan



2024 to 2029

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Introduction

Perth and Kinross Council has now produced our BSL Plan for 2024 to 2029.



Our plan has the same long-term aims of the Scottish Government BSL National Plan.



The Plan aims to protect equal access to services and support for BSL users in Perth and Kinross.



Our Plan is available in Plain English and Easy Read. All versions of the Plan are publicly available on the Council website.



Review of BSL Plan 2017 to 2023

Here are some of the key achievements from our first BSL Plan for 2017 to 2023.



Learning and training opportunities

Regular learning opportunities on Deaf and BSL awareness were offered to Council staff and partner organisations.



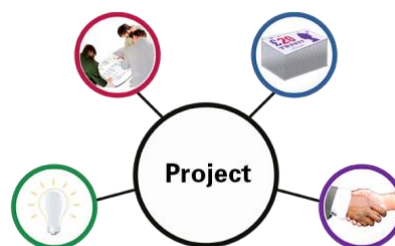
More specific training programmes have been offered to staff working directly with customers.



Funded teacher training and BSL level 1 and 2 materials have been made available in education settings.



Projects



The D-code project supported local visitor attractions to make their venues and facilities more accessible and welcoming for BSL users.



Welcome

Many local visitor attractions have taken part and have included a BSL video on their websites



Information

A deaf and BSL awareness learning session was also made available to the staff. Posters and leaflets were also provided for each venue.



The Perth Heritage trail storyboards were updated and have QR codes that link to BSL information to enable BSL users to take part.



Perth and Kinross Council installed BSL signage in 2 school/playpark areas to help raise awareness of BSL amongst younger people.



Website Information

Perth and Kinross Council's website has been improved to include information in BSL across all Council services.



The website was also updated to provide external links to NHS information and was expanded to include additional Coronavirus information during the pandemic.



Events

Lots of accessible events have been made available for the BSL community.



These have included group tours with a BSL interpreter.



Accessible

Events included a St Johnstone FC stadium tour;



a Jacobite exhibition at Perth Museum;



a Norie-Miller winter lights tour and an Enchanted Forest visit.



Doors Open Day takes place annually and has been made accessible to BSL users by including information in BSL and arranging interpreters at venues.



BSL film clips have been created for larger local events such as the Festival Lights switch on.



Perth and Kinross Council have worked with the BSL choir to give them the opportunity to perform at some of our local events.



Actions for 2024 to 2029 Linked to the BSL National Plan

BSL Accessibility

The following will help us improve access to information and services for BSL users.



Accessible

We will work with BSL users to make our website and other digital methods of communicating with the Council as accessible as possible.



Information



Council staff working with the public will be offered training courses to learn how to communicate effectively with BSL users.



Communicate

All Council staff will be offered opportunities to learn about BSL culture and deaf awareness. We will ask Deaf and Deafblind BSL users to tell us what should be taught.



What?

We will report on the progress of the BSL Plan to the See Hear Strategy Group.



We will continue to make Contact Scotland BSL available in Perth and Kinross. This will be a first point of contact for people who use BSL if they need it.



Children, Young People and their Families

By the year 2029:



We will support our young people with additional support needs who are deaf and their families to have a positive experience.



We will look at the best way to provide opportunities for early years workers and school-based staff to learn BSL at an appropriate level.



Access to Employment



The Health and Social Care Partnerships' Employment Support Team will work in partnership with other organisations.



Some of these will be the Tayside Deaf Hub,



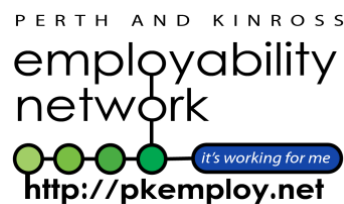
Deaf Links,



and Vision PK.



Members of Perth and Kinross Employability Network will also work in partnership with a variety of organisations



Health and Wellbeing

By the year 2029:



We will ensure any specific care strategies consider the needs of the Deaf/Deafblind community.



We will ensure services to support mental health and wellbeing are accessible to BSL users.



We will ensure that opportunities to reduce social isolation consider the needs of BSL users.



Celebrating BSL Culture

By 2029:



We will continue to promote opportunities for BSL users to participate in cultural events and activities in the local area.



BSL Data

By 2029:

We will examine how available local data can be used to plan services and support for BSL users.

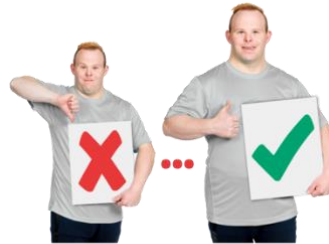


Transport

By 2029:



We will examine how the Accessible Travel Framework can be used at a local level to improve transport services for BSL users.



Access to Justice

By 2029:



We will ensure support is available to any BSL users who may have access to Criminal Justice Services or Community Safety Teams.



These teams will also be targeted to take part in BSL training.

Democratic Participation

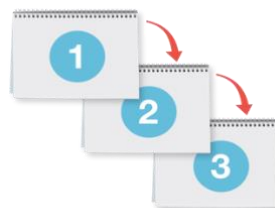
By 2029:



We will ensure the needs of BSL users are considered to allow them full participation in any elections or other local democratic processes.



What happens next?



The final version of the plan will be published by May 2024. Please contact David McPhee (Equalities Team Leader) if you want to continue to be involved as we further develop/ implement the actions in our plan. Get in touch by emailing Equalities@pkc.gov.uk



You can also make contact via the the Contact Scotland BSL website <https://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

