

Deaf Support

DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2015

We were disappointed this year that the City Lit Deaf Day did not take place because of building works. In March our Communication Adviser, Lorraine Elliott, updated us on her work. Having qualified as an interpreter in 2003, Lorraine has carried out a wide range of tasks in a variety of domains. She has travelled some distances but recently aims to restrict mileage by taking on jobs nearer to home in Bedfordshire. Her Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has included attendance at courses on Mental Health and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.



Lorraine loves her job as a free-lance interpreter and is available to our members for advice.

Linda Squelch has helped coach members wanting to improve and practice their BSL at an adult level. We are keen to ensure BSL is of a high standard amongst our membership so that those working with young deaf students can offer good signing translation in educational establishments.

Welcome to new member Jacqueline Varney who joined us in April. Jacqueline completed level 3 at Central Bedfordshire College, is working as a CSW and intends to develop her BSL skills, to train as a CSW and interpreter. In October she was appointed as a CSW to HAST (Harlington Area Schools Trust). Thanks to Jacqueline for assisting as a volunteer in Luton this year.

Members of MK Deaf Community are working together to create a sustainable future for d/Deaf and hard of hearing people in MK. Debbie Jakeman works with the community at (Deaf) Access Ambassadors (or DAA) to improve access to jobs and services. The committee from DAA have also set up a charity called MK Deaf Zone which will focus on the health and well-being of the Deaf community. MK Deaf Zone will open its doors in January 2016. Details are available on <http://www.access-ambassadors.co.uk/training.php> Exciting times for MK!

In May there was a request for help in Luton when Specsavers was unable to obtain funding or provide communication for a Deaf client. Apparently their shop in Milton Keynes does offer interpreters and it seems that funding differs from area to area. Thanks to Jacqueline Varney for volunteering to communicate in this emergency situation in Luton.

During the summer we helped a former pupil of Penn School, Buckinghamshire to make contact with the organiser the annual gathering of ex-pupils. Although living in

Yorkshire the enquirer made contact with us and we were able to help. The annual gathering took place on the 4th July and we received a thank you card.

On 14th July we held a short Deaf Awareness course for staff in the catering office of Luton Borough Council where a member is Deaf.



Staff who helped with the Deaf Awareness Course

Line manager Ferri with his certificate of attendance



Once again Lisa Ward voluntarily led sessions in BSL for pupils at Mary Bassett School, Leighton Buzzard in September and October. Sandra helped plan the sessions and Linda advised on the signing. We are pleased that Lisa has joined Deaf Support as a full member. Lisa has written an article about how she came to provide signing sessions and her experience being deaf herself.



Lisa with Linda and 2 pupils at Mary Bassett School in September 2015

Members News

Carla Adams has remarried and is now Carla Chynoweth

Members of DEAF SUPPORT

Executive Officer: Sandra Dowe,

Adviser on BSL: Linda Squelch (Deaf)

Deaf qualified teachers of BSL: Linda Brine, Brenda Campbell, Victoria Page,
Sehrish Rashid and Victoria Curtis

Deaf teachers: Oliver Monksfield, Martine Monksfield

Deaf teaching assistant: Marcus Fucillo

ICT Adviser: David Wilson

Communication/Interpreter Adviser: Lorraine Elliott

Adviser on legal matters: Debbie Jakeman

Qualified CSWs/Interpreters: Susan Baines, Karen Beattie, Natalie (Whyte)

McCalman, Hilda Duguid, Lorraine Elliott, Azra Farooq, Renu Fulham,

Seonaid Gooding, Michelle Halfpenny, Linda Horwood, Carla Chynoweth,

Sally Jackson, Kelli (Taplín) Kawa, Rebecca Shute, Julie Simms, Miriam Tantardini

Members: James Arnold, Sarah Carlier, Julie Cooper, Nicolette Green, Sarah
Higman, David Marshall, Linda Sarkar (Deaf), Alison Sheehan, Jacqueline Varney,
Lisa Ward (Deaf), Veronica Wilson (Deaf).