

Deaf Support

DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Preparations began at the end of last year to April this year for the launch of a new level 3 BSL course in our area. Owing to financial cuts to Further Education establishments, Central Bedfordshire College suspended all BSL courses and those wanting level 3 had to travel to London or Northampton. Debbie Jakeman, co-director of Access Ambassadors CIC organisation and member of Deaf Support to established a level 3 course at Oakgrove School in Milton Keynes. Linda Squelch, our BSL adviser taught the course. It began on 6th April and finished in December 2016.

Debbie Jakeman reports: *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. Exciting times for MK!*



DAA meeting to plan courses held on 31st

May 2016 at Broughton Pavilion Milton Keynes:

Bryan Whalley, Derek Rowley, Bob Rose, Doug & Julia Bates, Linda Squelch, Ben Knapp, Brenda Campbell, Debbie Jakeman

On 28th June Lisa Ward had a final session with 2 pupils at Mary Bassett Lower School. Lisa continues with her valuable work teaching hearing children to sign. She is planning another course for 2017. Thanks to Linda Squelch for assisting to ensure pupils use pure BSL and not SSE. The children of lower school age are able to develop natural BSL,



Pupils Bethany and Scott with Lisa and Linda answering questions in BSL 20.06.16

On 9th July the Deaf Day at City Lit offered an opportunity to meet other Deaf Support Members and celebrities in the Deaf Community. Sandra met Julie Simms at the Hearing Therapists Stall, Jacqueline Varney and Sehrish Rashid with her friend Yasmena in the café.



Julie and Sandra



Jacqueline and Sandra



Sehrish and Yasmena

After attending a session on Deaf History, Sandra chatted with Peter Brown, Deaf historian. She also met actress Charlotte Arrowsmith who has acted with the Deafinitely Theatre Company and sign linguist Robert Adam who works at DCAL.



Sandra with: Peter Brown historian Charlotte Arrowsmith actress Robert Adam researcher

The Deaf Day offers an opportunity to see different aspects of Deaf Culture. We hope it will be equally successful next year.

During the year members have worked with social services special needs departments in Luton and Central Bedfordshire communicating voluntarily at meetings with the council, employment establishments, jobs fair in Luton, and a visit to a deaf/blind person which involved hands on signing. There is a need for communicators to develop skills in communicating with deaf/blind people including those with Usher syndrome. Thanks to Linda Squelch for advice on hands on signing.

Thanks to all who have carried out unpaid voluntary work, including, Lisa Ward, Linda Squelch, Jaqueline Varney and Sehrish Rashid.

Deaf Support continues to be a member of the Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire and receives useful information from it.

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 Fuccillo

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, Azra, Farooq, Renu Fulham, Seonaid Gooding, Michelle Halfpenny, Linda Horwood, Carla Chynoweth, Sally Jackson, Kelli (Taplin) 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)