

# Deaf Support

## DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Members Veronica Wilson, Sehrish Rashid, Jacqueline Varney and Sandra travelled to the City Lit on 27<sup>th</sup> April for the annual Deaf Day gathering.

Sehrish became a member of the Association of British Sign Language Teachers (ABSLTA), In May she taught BSL to someone in Dunstable who worked with deaf people but had not learnt BSL. Thanks to Sehrish for her useful work.

Sandra met up with Emma Iliffe, chair of ABSLTA and gave copies of the 'Nutshell' booklet and Deaf Support handouts: for left handers, primary school pupils, grammar and phonology, as resources for Deaf teachers of BSL.



*Gillian Stringer, Ashley Clifford, Sehrish, Sandra*



*Sandra and Emma*

We received a request for beginner's BSL tuition from Barry Bell of Dunstable who works with Aspire Charity Oxford and has deaf clients. We could find no level 1 class beginning in May in the area, so Sehrish agreed to teach Barry on a voluntary basis one to one. It proved very successful and Barry learnt very quickly.



*Sehrish and Barry signing NAME in the café at Dunstable Sainsbury  
Photos by Sandra Dowe*

Our Adviser on BSL, Linda Squelch is working for Action on Hearing Loss in Wales, supporting Deaf people some with additional special needs. She is available to comment on the quality of signing clips viewed on various websites.

In response to requests for resources from Deaf teachers of BSL via Facebook - BSL & linguistics teachers, assessors & researchers - we posted details of the 'Nutshell' book. Sandra then received requests for hard copies from Deaf teachers of BSL and packets were sent, free of charge. Some teachers are printing them using the resources page on the Deaf Support website. The Association of British Sign Language Teachers Assessors (ABSLTA) have endorsed the Nutshell booklet and recommending it to its members.

Currently we are working on designing a leaflet on guidelines for CSWs. Thank you to all who have commented on a draft that was circulated.

We have resignations from Debbie Jakeman who informs us there are changes to Access Ambassadors and she no longer leads the organisation and is doing more studying. Also from James Arnold and Linda Sarkar.

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, Yasmena Waris

**Deaf teaching assistant:** Marcus Fuccillo

**ICT Adviser:** David Wilson

**Communication/Interpreter Adviser:** Lorraine Elliott

**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:** Sarah Carlier, Julie Cooper, Nicolette Green, Sarah Higman, Helen Hosier, David Marshall, Alison Sheehan, Jacqueline Varney, Lisa Ward (Deaf), Veronica Wilson (Deaf)

Total 37 participants