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The Moray Council

British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024

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SECTION 2:

2.1 Introduction

This is the (draft) BSL Plan for the Moray Council, as required by BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. It sets out actions that it plans to take over the period 2018-2024. Before we publish the final plan, we want to hear from D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users, their families and people who work with them.

Our plan follows the BSL National Plan 2017-2023, published 24 October 2017, which was developed through extensive engagement with D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users and those who work with them. Our BSL plan is set around the same long-term goals as the national plan.

This BSL plan sets out the Moray Council's commitment to protecting and supporting BSL, including in its tactile form.

We met with the Moray Deaf Club on 9 June to discuss the plan and to ask the Deaf Club to encourage as many people as they can to take part in the consultation. Helen Morgans-Wenhold, of the British Deaf Association for Scotland gave a presentation on the BSL National plan. The comments received on that day have been included in the draft plan. Following that meeting it has also been agreed to hold additional information sessions about the draft BSL Plan. The dates for these are still to be agreed with the Deaf Club. The information sessions will be held at North East Sensory Services
Elizabeth House,
10 Victoria Crescent,
Elgin IV30

There will be a BSL interpreter at these events. If you need additional support, for example tactile interpretation, please let us know by contacting our lead officer:

Don Toonen
Equal Opportunities Officer,
Moray Council,
Chief Executive's Office,
Council HQ,
High Street,
Elgin, IV30 1RE.
telephone: 01343 563321.
SMS: 07812969115
Email: don.toonen@moray.gov.uk

The Moray Council is committed to continuing to engage with D/deaf and Deafblind BSL users and those who work with them on implementing the actions outlined in the plan. The actions will be incorporated in the service plans of the services that the

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actions relate to. Progress on actions will be collected every three months and will be used to contribute to the National progress report which will be published in 2020. In addition, meetings with the D/deaf community in Moray will be held every 6 months in partnership with North East Sensory Services to give BSL users in Moray the opportunity to give their feedback on progress.

2.2 How to comment on the draft BSL Plan for Moray?

The Moray Council's draft BSL plan will be published at its Communities Committee Meeting of **Tuesday 26 June 2018**. The plan will be presented in British Sign Language at that meeting through a live webcast. The webcast will be available for a year for people to access at a time that suits them and as many times as they wish. We invite all those in the D/deaf and Deafblind community to give their comments by **31 July 2018**. This can be done by any of the following:

- Email BSLPlan@moray.gov.uk
- SMS 07812969115
- Write to Don Toonen,
Equal Opportunities Officer,
Moray Council,
Chief Executive's Office,
Council HQ,
High Street,
Elgin, IV30 1RE.

If you or a family member use BSL it is important that you let us know what you think of the plan. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Do you agree with the actions?
- If you don't agree, which actions do you not agree with?
- What changes do we need to make to the actions?
- Have we missed something important out?
- What actions do you think we should add to the plan?
- What other comments do you have?

When you answer, please let us know why you are interested. For example because you are:

- a BSL user
- family member or carer of a BSL user
- Deafblind
- Family member or carer of a deafblind person

It would also be helpful if you could tell us your age and if you're male or female. This is to help us see how we can make the services better suited to the needs of D/deaf people.

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All information will be confidential. Any information that may identify an individual will not be shared or disclosed.

2.3 Where to find the BSL version of this plan?

Webcast:

Go to the Moray Council website: <http://www.moray.gov.uk>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select Webcasting:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_43661.html

On the webcasting page, go to the table with the “details of Committees using webcast technology”.

A written version of the BSL plan can be found by selecting Agenda beside the Communities Committee – 26 June 2018. This will open the agenda for that meeting. The BSL plan can be opened by selecting the hyperlink of appendix 1 under item ..., Moray BSL Plan 2018 – 2024. It will be available from 25 June through this link.

To see a BSL version of the plan, go to the webcasting page

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_43661.html.

Then go to the table with the “details of Committees using webcast technology”. Select “Webcast” beside the Communities Committee – 26 June 2018. The webcast can be viewed live from 9:30 on 26 June. After that, it will be available for 12 months after the broadcast, using the same link. The computer you use will require Flash Player to view video and a sound card and speakers for audio. Webcasts are now available to view from mobile devices such as iPhones, iPads, iPod touches and Android devices.

There will also be a link on the Moray Council’s press release on the BSL plan.

2.4 Lead officer contact details

Don Toonen
Equal Opportunities Officer,
Moray Council,
Chief Executive’s Office,
Council HQ,
High Street,
Elgin, IV30 1RE.
telephone: 01343 563321.
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SECTION 3:

Short summary of the plan

This plan is the Moray Council's contribution to the Scottish Government's commitment to make information and services across the public sector accessible to BSL users. The plan covers the period from 2018 – 2024

It proposes actions in 4 areas recommended that the Scottish Government thinks local authorities should address. These are actions affecting:

- All services
- Early learning and childcare
- School
- Democracy

The guidance from the Scottish Government also recommends actions relating to culture and the arts. We have not included them in this draft plan because there are no services within the Moray Council that can support the actions recommended by the Scottish Government.

The Moray Council is also proposing actions on areas where the Scottish Government has not recommended actions for local authorities. These are:

- Post-school learning and work
- Public transport

There are no recommended actions from the Scottish Government relating to Justice. We have included some questions in this plan that we would like you to answer. This way, we can see if we should include actions in the final version of the BSL Plan for Moray.

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SECTION 4:

DRAFT BSL NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE MORAY COUNCIL

4.1: Across all our services

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

1. Analyse existing evidence we have about BSL users in our organisation and; identify and fill key information gaps so that we can establish baselines and measure our progress.
2. Improve access to our information and services for BSL users, including making our website more accessible to BSL users.
3. Promote the use of the Scottish Government’s nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay services called ‘contactSCOTLAND-BSL’ to staff and to local BSL users. This is a free service which allows BSL users to contact public and their sector services and for these services to contact them.
4. Signpost staff who work with BSL users to appropriate BSL awareness training.
5. Make sure that customer facing staff within the Moray Council are D/deaf aware.

4.2: Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL”

By 2024, we will:

1. Provide early years staff with information about BSL and Deaf culture, and about resources that are available in BSL, so that they can meet the needs of

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families with a D/deaf or Deafblind child.

2. Provide early years staff with information about BSL and Deaf culture, and about resources that are available in BSL, so that they can meet the needs of D/deaf or Deafblind parents.

4.3: School Education

We share the long-term goal for school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child’s education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school”

By 2024, we will:

1. contribute to the Scottish Government’s investigation of the level of BSL held by teachers and support staff working with D/deaf and Deafblind pupils in schools, and take account of any new guidance for teachers or support staff working with pupils who use BSL.
2. take forward advice developed by Education Scotland to a) improve the way that teachers engage effectively with parents who use BSL and b) ensure that parents who use BSL know how they can get further involved in their child’s education.
3. contribute to the SCILT programme of work to support the learning of BSL in schools for hearing pupils as part of the 1+2 programme, including sharing best practice and guidance. We will do this by
 - a. Ensuring that schools in Moray are aware that BSL can be one of the languages on offer as part of their 1+2 language policy.
 - b. Establish the number of schools in Moray which have the capacity, or desire, to deliver BSL as part of their 1+2 policy.
 - c. Investigate various strategies by which schools across Moray could develop BSL as part of their 1+2 policy and share good practice across the authority.

4.4: Training, Work and Social Security

We share the long-term goal for training, work and social security set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued

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members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland's economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career"

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

1. signpost pupils and students to a wide range of information, advice and guidance in BSL about their career and learning choices and the transition process.
2. work with partners who deliver employment services, and with employer groups already supporting employability to help signpost them to specific advice on the needs of BSL users.
3. raise awareness locally of the UK Government's 'Access to Work' (AtW) scheme with employers and with BSL users (including those on Modern Apprenticeships) so that they can benefit from the support it provides.
4. Ensure that Moray Council staff involved in the delivery of post-school education and employment services will be D/deaf aware.

4.5: Transport

We share the long-term goal for transport set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

1. Promote the use of HITRANS Thistle Assistance Card by BSL users. The card can alert drivers to support needed by users of public transport.
2. Promote the use of a booking system for Dial M for Moray on-demand bus service that is appropriate for BSL users.

4.6: Culture and the Arts

The long-term goal for culture and the arts set out in the BSL National Plan is:

"BSL users will have full access to the cultural life of Scotland, an equal opportunity to enjoy and contribute to culture and the arts, and are encouraged to share BSL and Deaf Culture with the people of Scotland"

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The Moray Council does not have a service which can contribute to this element of the BSL National Plan.

4.7: Justice

We share the long-term goal for justice set out in the BSL National Plan, which is: *'BSL users will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems in Scotland'*

Our questions for the consultation:

The BSL National Plan does not recommend actions for local authorities relating to justice. We want to know if this is something that should be considered. We would therefore like you to answer, if you can, the following questions:

1. Have you had experience with the youth justice or criminal justice system?
2. What actions can the Moray Council take to improve the experience of BSL users with the youth justice system?
3. What actions can the Moray Council take to improve the experience of BSL users with the criminal justice system?

4.8: Democracy

We share the long-term goal for democracy set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

"BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies"

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

1. Continue to promote the Access to Elected Office Fund locally, which can meet the additional costs of BSL users wishing to stand for selection or election in local or Scottish Parliament elections.

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SECTION 5:

What happens next?

On 26 June, the draft plan will be presented to the Moray Council's Communities Committee. The meeting will be broadcast on the council's webcast. There will be two BSL interpreters there to translate the plan. This means that the plan will be available in BSL from 26 June through the council's webcast.

After the meeting, you can go onto the webcast to view the plan in BSL whenever you like. We will publish details of how to do this on the Moray Council's website and Facebook page.

We want to hear your views on the BSL plan for Moray. You can do this by email. The address is BSLPlan@moray.gov.uk. You can write your comments or sign them and then send them by video.

If you prefer to do this by text, you can do this on 07812 969115. If you want to write about the plan, you can write to me directly: Equal Opportunities Officer, Council HQ, Elgin, IV301BX. We will also put the plan on the Moray Council's Facebook. You can comment on it directly on the Facebook page.

Please send your comments no later than 31 July 2018.

After 31 July, the feedback will be analysed and, if necessary, used to change the plan. The final plan will then be presented to the Communities Committee on 25 September. Once approved, it will be translated into BSL and published on the Moray Council's website.

The actions in the plan will be put into the council's service plans. There will be reports on progress every 3 months. We will use this information to report to the Scottish Government to help with their progress report on the national plan which will be published in 2020.

There will also be meetings with the Deaf Club in Moray every 6 months to hear from service users how the plan is working for them.

Please contact the equal opportunities officer if you want to continue to be involved with the Council as we further develop/implement the actions in our plan. The contact details are:

Don Toonen
Equal Opportunities Officer,
Moray Council,
Chief Executive's Office,
Council HQ,
High Street,
Elgin, IV30 1RE.

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