

## Funding Success for Life After Deaf

### This issue

### Funding Success for Life After Deaf

You may have read in the Scunthorpe Telegraph about a bid that Sounds Right made to North Lincolnshire Homes for funding to provide a range of support and training to members of our community with hearing loss. Our bid was successful and allows us to deliver a number of both workshop and one to one learning sessions targeting people with hearing loss. We are also working closely and in partnership with statutory providers such as the Humberside Fire & Rescue Service to deliver a programme of sessions which are fully accessible, relevant and responsive to the identified needs of people with hearing loss.

### Electronic Notetaking – an update

### Sounds Right Annual General Meeting 2011



This photograph is reproduced with the permission of the Scunthorpe Telegraph

### GCSE in British Sign Language

### On-line BSL Dictionary

The workshops will work in the following themes/learning areas:

1. **Deaf/Self Awareness** – deafness what's going on, what's happening to me?
2. **Communication Tactics** – introduction to the skill of lip-reading
3. **Hearing Aids** – understanding their benefits and limitations and getting the very best from them
4. **Technical Aids** – what are they, what is the benefit of them. Linking to providers and practical hands on training in technical aid use
5. **Human Aids to Communication** - what are they, practical demonstrations and learning how to work effectively with the different types of Human Aids to Communication
6. **Equality Act** – understanding this and learning linked to promoting awareness to your rights in relation to access and support
7. **British Sign Language** – a basic introduction with links to ongoing training
8. **Fire Safety** – ensuring your safety in both the home and the community

The first session resulting from this funding, a **Lip Reading Workshop**, is to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10:30am to 1:30pm. This will give attendees a taster of the skills involved in Lip Reading.

If you are interested in attending this session, or any of our future sessions, please either complete the LAD project form which is on the last page of this newsletter or contact us via our website to express your interest.

## Sounds Right Annual General Meeting 2011

A  
G  
M

2  
0  
1  
1

The date for the Annual General Meeting for Sounds Right has now been set for 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and it will be held at the Riddings Action Group Drop-In Centre on Willoughby Road in Scunthorpe from 1:00pm onwards.

Communication support will be provided.

If you do want to attend, please let us know

## Electronic Note Taking – an update

In the June 2011 edition of the newsletter, we gave a brief overview of Electronic Note Taking and asked if any of our readers would be interesting in volunteering to become an ENT operator.

You'll remember that we explained that Electronic notetaking, or ENT for short, is a system that provides virtually simultaneous access to spoken information for people who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing in many different settings. It uses a laptop to allow an operator to type everything that is said in a meeting and this is displayed on either a separate screen, or the service user can see the operators screen. This ensures that the service user has total access in a meeting.

The text also provides a written record of sessions, which is particularly useful for deaf and hard of hearing attendees because taking notes whilst lip reading or watching a sign language interpreter is difficult.

We have recently successfully completed our first block of ENT training and our thanks go to those who have been involved and will continue to be involved in this valuable area of work. We are now also looking for a second small group of new volunteers to get involved with and support the work of this project in our second round of basic ENT training which we hope to start later this year. If you are interested please look at the requirements list below:

To become part of our ENT training project, you must :

- Have good listening and memory skills (able to understand and restate fast, and sometimes complex English).
- Have good level and command of both written and spoken English skills (able to type English quickly, accurately and clearly).
- Type at least 50 words per minute, with a high level of accuracy.
- Have basic computer knowledge.

If you have answered yes to the above questions, are interested in helping us, and have the time available, please get in touch with us and we will arrange to meet with you to discuss things in more detail and demonstrate our ENT system to you.

Our contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## GCSE in British Sign Language

The charity Signature has announced that it is developing a GCSE in British Sign Language (BSL) and is looking for evidence of support and demand. The charity claims that introducing BSL into mainstream education provision would enable hearing-impaired and hearing children to compete on an equal footing. It also states that the GCSE in BSL would enhance an individual's employability and open up career opportunities for young people they may have previously not considered. For further information, and to demonstrate support for the proposal, visit the Signature website :

## On-line BSL Dictionary



Actual Signs has just launched a brand new, FREE, BSL dictionary and we want you to be the first to hear about it!

The BSL dictionary is the first of its kind in the UK and has approximately 21,000 English words and 80,000 BSL signs.

Lots of words are already available but it will take us a little time to upload all 21,000 so keep checking our new entries.

The BSL dictionary content was researched by a team of language and linguistic professionals to ensure accuracy and is presented by Tessa Padden (MA).

### **BENEFITS**

The benefits to both Deaf and hearing people are endless...

- Deaf people now have an online resource at their fingertips that will allow them to look up the meaning of words. This will mean a great deal of independence and empowerment for many Deaf people.
- We also hope that the BSL Dictionary will be used by family members to quickly and easily look up a sign and keep communication flowing or to learn basic BSL signs for days, numbers and colours etc. when they are waiting for BSL classes to start.
- It will also be of benefit to Communication Support Workers and Interpreters alike, who can clarify meaning and context before assignments to ensure that the most professional service is offered.
- BSL beginners and students at every level will find this an invaluable learning tool that they can use time and time again.

The possibilities of the new BSL dictionary are endless in work, study and family environments. Our aim is for this amazing new BSL dictionary to bring deaf and hearing people closer together and make a world with fewer communication barriers.

Actual Signs would like to thank everyone that was involved in the creation of the BSL Dictionary including AC2.com Productions and Tessa and her team for all of their hard work.

We really hope that you enjoy using the BSL dictionary and look forward to receiving any feedback.

Please let all of your friends and family know about the BSL Dictionary at :

[http://actualsigns.com/BSL\\_Dictionary-i-123.html](http://actualsigns.com/BSL_Dictionary-i-123.html)

and we welcome you to 'LIKE' us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=65660576884> so that you can keep up to date on our exciting future projects!

Many Thanks,

The Actual Signs Team

## Life After Deaf – expression of interest form

The Sounds Right *Life after Deaf* project is a programme of themed workshops which are being developed and planned in response to the needs of people with a range of hearing loss - this includes people who are hard of hearing right through to those who are profoundly deafened.

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

The easiest (**and cheapest**) way for us to contact you is via email however if you do not have access to an email address please tell us below how you would prefer us to contact you:

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you had a hearing loss? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you wear a hearing aid/s? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please give us more details about your hearing loss: \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are our workshop themes which are numbered 1-8. Please put a ring around the workshops that you would like to attend

1. Understanding hearing loss, being self awareness and moving forward with your life
2. Understanding what support is available to you in your community and how to access this
3. Developing Good Communication Tactics - Learning about Lip-reading
4. Finding out if learning some basic sign language could help you and increase your confidence and links to further learning
5. Understanding what Communication Support Workers are, seeing examples of them at work and working effectively with them
6. Understanding hearing and environmental aids and how they can be of benefit to you Also learning how to use them effectively
7. Fire Safety and staying safe at home and in the community
8. Understanding your access rights under equality legislation



*This project has been made possible with funding support from North Lincolnshire Homes*

**We can be contacted at the following address:**

Sounds Right, c/o 51 Bottesford Avenue, Ashby, Scunthorpe,  
North Lincolnshire, DN16 3EN

**Or by any of the following methods:**

**VoiceMail:** 01724 851501 / **Fax:** 01724 851501 **E-mail:** secretary@sounds-right.org.uk