

Deaf Access Advocacy



Advocacy-empowering & enbling

Sorry there's no
interpreter
available- but
we'll be fine!

So, how can I help
you?

Shall I sign
sloooooooooooooower?

How do you feel?





Communication

is the most basic human need & vital for
all of us

but if you are profoundly deaf or hard of
hearing , verbal and written
communication can be difficult if not
virtually impossible.

Why do Deaf people need advocacy?

- Lack of access to communication
- Lack of access to information
- Other people's lack of understanding

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Willkommen

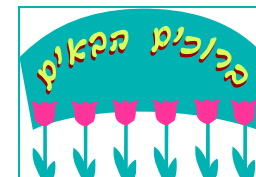
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- Deaf awareness Training
- Easy to Read info
- Visual info
- BSL video Information
- interpreter

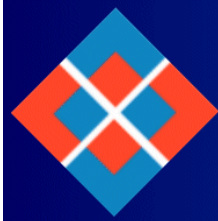


Bienvenido



Advocacy

- Finding a voice
- Clear information to enable choices
- Giving empowerment
- Support to achieve
- Unbiased
- Information/resources
- Clarification of needs



Deaf Access

Advocacy support for

General support eg letter
reading

Researching & Explaining
information

Form filling eg DLA

Housing; queries and repairs



- 1) officers have very little contact with Deaf people- so it is a *new and unknown* experience every time.

- 2) Initial contact, be it on the street or at the front desk, frequently resort to writing things down. Sometimes someone in the station knows some finger spelling, or basic signs (on rare occasions a Deaf person may be a member of police staff and are called to the front counter to assist.) Deaf people will frequently take a family member or friend to communicate for them.
This situation could be resolved by having an on-line video interpreting service.

- 3) At the time of arrest the Deaf person often does not know what is going on.



- 4) Deaf people often do not know or understand their rights.
- 5) It is inappropriate for officers to handcuff Deaf people with their hands behind their back.
- 6) Legal reps in both the police station and court should make more use of the appointment of their own interpreters or advocates, especially in the more serious cases.
- 7) There is a list of (possibly Home Office) approved advocates
- 8) It needs to be stressed that interpreters are NOT advocates.
- 9) Quicker and easier for police officers to secure the services of an interpreter instead of them using their time phoning around trying to find an interpreter at all hours- they make one call to the Met's Interpreter Deployment Team.



10) It may be decided that a Deaf person being questioned should have an Appropriate Adult present, however it is no point in having an Appropriate Adult who does not understand sign language.

11) Ideally all interviews with Deaf people should be videoed.

12) Custody suites should have a DVD available which sets out, in sign language, a persons rights whilst in custody.

13) Frequently Deaf people will not understand the procedure that they have just been through, be it in the police station or at court and an advocate would be very useful in explaining what has happened and re enforcing the next step (s).

14) National SMS 999 service- Deaf people register via RNID.



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Thank you!

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