

BSL/sign systems Audit Phase 2 Briefing Note

This briefing paper offers an update on the Audit Report, describes Phase 2 and includes a call for case studies from young people, parents, Local Authority HI Services, Schools, Colleges and Specialist Providers from Early Years to Post 16.

Working Draft Report

Last year we conducted an audit of existing information and practice which supports children and young people with sensory impairment in the development and use of BSL and/or sign systems. A Working Draft Report now underpins the direction of this workstream for Phase 2.

Call for Evidence

The Audit Team, on behalf of the BSL Coalition, are seeking to collect further case study examples of what is working for children and young people using BSL and/or sign systems. We are looking for more evidence to understand and benchmark what 'effective' practice looks like. Very few case studies were received during Phase 1 and it is imperative that further evidence is collated in Phase 2. **Case Study deadline please: 23rd July 2014.**

We would welcome your examples that articulate how BSL and/or sign systems have been used, and supported a child to realise positive outcomes. The outcomes may be in any area of achievement but we are particularly looking for examples of positive wellbeing outcomes such as feeling safe, resilience, self-esteem, emotional wellbeing, satisfaction at school, with family and with community. We want to know how BSL and sign systems have helped a child to progress and make a difference to what they have achieved. We are interested to know what has worked and is working about how they have been supported in their use and development of BSL and sign systems. We expect the evidence to be written-up case study examples rather than numerical data based research.

Community of Interest in BSL and sign systems

During Phase 2 we will be seeking to link with the specialist networks that exist and to establish a specific Community of Interest in BSL and sign systems to input and support Phase 2. This approach is designed to draw on specialist knowledge and expertise to develop **practical guidance** which supports effective practice. Practice which is informed by evidence and which results in positive outcomes for children and young people who choose and/or require language acquisition and communication support in BSL and/or sign systems.

The guidance will be designed to be useful to both practitioners and those with a strategic role to ensure children and young people are at the centre of planning and decision making about their education, health and care and supported appropriately by a specialist workforce. Within the context of the Children and Families Act 2014, the guidance will also aim to support implementation of the new SEN Code of Practice from September 2014.

The Community of Interest in BSL and sign systems will also seek to scope the concept of **Regional Specialist Centres of Collaboration** as sustainable mechanisms to support and guide provision and practice. This will include developing benchmarks and collecting data to monitor and evidence the effectiveness of BSL and sign system approaches. We anticipate facilitating this via an email network and through existing meeting, workshop and conference opportunities.

Please let us know by email to Louise Cole at loulou.cole@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to provide a case study and/or be involved in the Community of Interest in BSL and sign systems. *Thank You*