

How can you help?

- First and foremost, increase your own awareness of issues affecting deaf people.
- Develop some basic skills in communicating with deaf people
- Donate to WDDA

In the UK 11 million people - 1 in 6 of the population - have some hearing loss.

75% of these are aged 65+

70,000 are profoundly **Deaf** people whose first language is British Sign Language.

There are 125,000 **deafened** people who have become profoundly deaf after a learning a spoken language. Generally, they do not use BSL, preferring to use speech, writing, reading and lip reading.

There are 350,000, mostly elderly people, with a dual sensory loss in both sight and hearing, where one cannot compensate for the other. 24,000 are registered **Deaf blind** who use tactile hands on BLOCK writing or Deaf Manual Alphabet, often supported by a communicator guide and assistance dog. They usually have speech.

Hard of Hearing

people make up **8 million** of the total number of those who have a hearing loss. If they have sight, they are likely to rely on residual hearing supplemented by lip reading speech, reading and visual clues.

Hearing aids.

Are a brilliant technology that helps everyday conversation and access to entertainment for people with some residual hearing. They do not help profoundly deaf or deafened people

They take a lot of getting used to as they amplify **all** sounds, including unwanted ones.

They are small and fiddly.

How can you tell someone is deaf?

- * They may use sign or gestures.
- * Appear to ignore you.
- * Give an inappropriate response.
- * They may keep asking you to repeat or speak up.
- * Cup their ear towards you.
- * Watch your face intently.
- * Have a Hearing Dog For The Deaf.
- * Carry a white cane with red stripes on it.
- * They may wear a badge or tell you.
- * Voice may have a flat tone or higher pitch than expected.
- * May have an interpreter guide with them.
- * May withdraw from groups.
- * May wear a hearing aid or cochlea implant.

Why might they not declare a problem

- * Fear of being thought less capable.
- * Don't want to be treated differently.
- * Fear of stigma
- * May be in denial.
- * Fear of losing or not getting a job.
- * Lower esteem and self - worth.

First steps to communicating with a deaf person.

Find out their preferred communication method, and any support they may need, preferably before you meet them. This can include a BSL Interpreter - in person, or via a phone app or on line; A lip speaker; Communicator guide. In meetings, this can also include a Speech To Text Reporter for sighted people with a good command of written English or other language.

In an unscheduled meeting, using clear speech, ask if they can understand you. Most deaf people with sight will benefit from any residual hearing and lip reading you, but be aware that :

Lip Reading is 80% guess work.

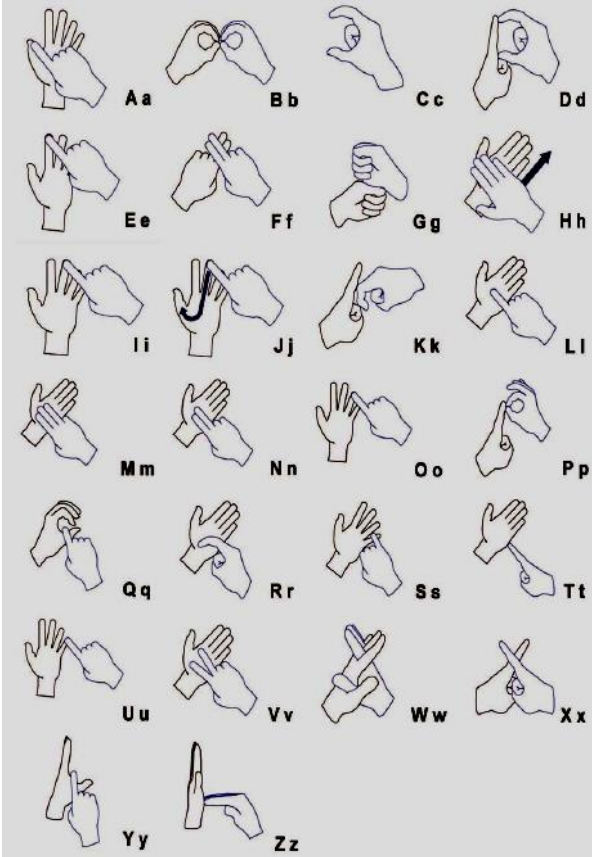
Because some letters, consonants and vowels either look the same on the lips (P, B, M) or can't be seen at all (H, K)

Communication Tactics help.

- * Face the person in a quiet, plain walled environment with good light.
- * Use clear speech, forming words clearly on the lips.
- * Support by using **gesture, mime, facial expression, drawn pictures and written word.**

Subtitles and a speech to text phone app is also helpful.

BSL Finger Spelling and simple phrases like *Hello, please* and *thank you*, can make someone's day.



Learn some basic BSL phrases and questions for use in hospitals.



What is the best environment for communication?

- * Quiet rooms without machinery.
- * Soft furnishing and low ceilings.
- * 2 plain walls with no visual distraction
- * Good lighting.
- * Space to sit at the same level, 3 to 6 feet apart.
- * No air movement or smell.
- * Loop systems that are regularly checked for serviceability.

For more information

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Empowering Deaf People to play a full part in the community.

Who are we?

WDDA, is a charitable trust run by a small board of Trustees and a part time administrator to oversee the various activities and maintain our web site.

Aims of the Association

- * Promote Deaf Awareness.
- * Increase access to information and services in BSL.
- * Provide advocacy and sign posting to connect service providers and the deaf communities.
- * Increase the involvement of all deaf people in the actions needed to achieve these aims.

How do we help?

- * Provide courses and training in Deaf Awareness and communication including Lip Speaking and Sign Language
- * Maintain a sign posting service via our website.
- * Provide financial support to deaf people to access courses and training.
- * We provide financial and other support to the training and development of S L Interpreters.