

How you can get involved

[tick to find out more]

- Join our campaign membership. If you are deaf, or know of someone who is, you could influence our work and enhance our campaigns.
- Fundraise to support our service provision. From coffee mornings to large occasions, we welcome your ideas and can provide support for your event.
- A gift through a legacy helps secure our future.
- Volunteer for SignHealth and give the valued gift of time.
- Become a SignHealth Deaf Ambassador and increase awareness of the work of the charity amongst deaf people and the general public.

If you'd like to make a donation

If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration so we can reclaim 28p for every £1 you donate.

- I enclose my donation of £_____ (cheques payable to SignHealth).
- I wish to make a regular donation by Standing Order. Please send me a form.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. No. _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like SignHealth to reclaim tax paid by me on all donations I make from the date below until I notify you otherwise.

Signed _____

Date _____

NOTES

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

2. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that SignHealth reclaims, you should cancel your declaration (see note 1).

You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying us.



Contact us

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SignTranslate

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Reg charity no: 1011056 Company no: 2610559



Front cover image courtesy of Royal United Hospital Bath



**The Healthcare Charity
for Deaf People**

*Our vision is a world where
there are no barriers to
good health and wellbeing
for deaf people*



Our Mission

SignHealth will work to improve healthcare and achieve equal access for deaf people. We will work with the deaf community, health services and other charities.

Our Aims and Values

Caring ...

We value the individual and feel strongly about what we do.

Involving ...

We will talk with and listen to deaf people about their thoughts and opinions.

Enabling ...

We support deaf people to live independently and to access information to make their own choices. We support our staff to fulfil their role with appropriate training and development.

Expert ...

We are respected and trustworthy. We provide a high quality and professional service.

Respect ...

We recognise and respect that deaf culture is important.

Influential ...

We will respond to local, regional and national agendas and take opportunities to develop our work. We will work with our partner organisations.

"I rarely understand what my Doctor is saying"

Making a positive difference to the health of deaf people

Our **Advocacy** service is developing to include a national register of trained and accredited advocates which will enable deaf people to access an advocate who is deaf or has BSL [British Sign Language] skills.

"I'm deaf. My language is BSL. So why can't I have an interpreter at the Doctors when I need it?"

There are seven **SignHealth** housing projects where deaf people with enduring mental health problems live and are supported in a range of ways.

SignHealth is leading a group of organisations commissioning a major piece of research into the health of deaf people. The evidence from this research will make our campaign for health service change even stronger.

"My mum signed that she wanted water. No-one in the hospital even tried to understand and she got dehydrated"

SignHealth Counselling provides psychological therapies for BSL users and deafblind people. A new Counselling diploma in BSL sponsored by SignHealth will help increase the number of BSL Counsellors throughout the UK

The **Outreach** service supports deaf people with complex needs to live independently and gain life skills. In some cases this will include supporting them into the workplace.

"With my counselling, I find it hard to talk about difficult things with someone else in the room interpreting."

Lobbying for Change

One of the biggest challenges is persuading Government policy makers, service providers and donors that the issues deaf people face and the causes we champion really do exist and require their urgent attention. SignHealth continuously highlights inequity in healthcare for deaf people and provides evidence to support the demand for change.

Providing Solutions

To help doctors and medical professionals communicate better with Deaf people, SignHealth has developed an innovative product, **SignTranslate**. A 'live' web-cam links to a BSL interpreter, enabling a fully interactive conversation. This means that Deaf patients can visit their GP without delay, knowing that they can communicate on their own and fully understand their diagnosis and treatment.



SignTranslate Hospital has been designed for use in A&E, wards, audiology and maternity departments.

Our plans for the Future

- We will complete a major research project and use the evidence to campaign for change.
- We will expand the SignHealth Counselling and Advocacy services.
- We will develop our award winning SignTranslate product so that barriers to communication are broken down.
- SignHealth will continue to recognise discrimination and be prepared to take action against it.

