

From then until now.... the SignHealth Timeline



- 1985** Anastasia Trust started by Lady Annaly. Her aim was to build a project in London to provide supported living for vulnerable young deaf people. She also wanted to set up a Deaf Cultural Centre.
- 1991** Deposit put down to buy the building which will become 'Old Church' in London. Anastasia Trust re-launched as *Sign* under the direction of its new CEO, Steve Powell.
- 1993** First supported living project opened at Huron Road. Self-contained flats for 5 people who needed to live near the London psychiatric unit. First Befriender programme set up
- 1994** Bowfell Road opened. 24 hour support for 6 deaf people sponsored by local authorities around Greater Manchester. Focus on a signing environment. Lots of deaf staff means we have great role models.
- 1995** Funding received from Dept of Health to do research. First strategic planning weekend involving key people from field of mental health and deafness.
- Clubhouse opened – first in world for deaf people
- Sign* Bowfell Road wins the Sir Roy Griffiths Award for Excellence in Community Care!
- 1996** Old Church opens – Houses an in-patient NHS psychiatric unit and Annaly House, another project offering 24hr support.
- 1997** Claridge Road opens in Manchester



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- 1998**
- Spring Gardens opens – low support housing in High Wycombe, Bucks**
 - Publication of *Sign*'s research: Mental Health Services for Deaf People – Are they appropriate?**
 - Department of Health agrees to fund National Service for Deaf children**
 - Constance Way opens in Leeds**
- 1999**
- Outreach work starts in Bucks**
 - Sign* undertakes research for European Society of Mental Health and Deafness**
 - Longley Road opens in London**
 - Outreach work begins in Greater Manchester area**
- 2000**
- Outreach work begins around Leeds. User conferences held in London and Manchester**
- 2001**
- National Advocacy service starts.**
- 2002**
- Sign* to expand into health promotion. Funding gained to support Advocacy and User Involvement.**
- 2003**
- Deputy Chief Executive appointed to lead on Health Promotion – gains funding for the work from Dept of Health**
- 2003 – 2005**
- Reaching Deaf Minds Health Promotion campaign launched, endorsed by the Department of Health).**

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Partnership with Mental Health Foundation to produce the Deaf Mental Health Charter

Research undertaken or started:

- ✦ Deaf People in the Workplace
- ✦ Suicide amongst the deaf community

Healthy Deaf Days began to provide health information for deaf people

Patient Participation Involvement training to empower deaf people to be on PCT forums

Production of DVD "More choice for you"

2004 Involvement in the writing of the Department of Health's Towards Equity and Access report

2005 *Sign* personnel seconded to the Dept of Health to put the TEA proposals into action

Sign's day centre, Falcon House, relaunched and became The Bridge, a new centre to provide education, training and work placements for deaf people with mental health problems.

2006 SignHealth launched: A software package to make communication between doctors and patients clearer and easier. [Later renamed SignTranslate]

2006 Staff conferences held in Manchester and London.



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- 2007**
- Sign* changed its name to SignHealth with the emphasis being the healthcare of Deaf people. SignHealth Ltd became SignTranslate Ltd with work on the on-line interpreting service continuing.**
- Tenders issued for the research project to compare the health of Deaf people to the general population. SignHealth will be the lead organisation in this research, working with around 60 UK Deaf organisations who have agreed to work together.**
- 2008**
- Grant Court housing in Birmingham opens.**
- SignTranslate and SignHealth's new websites launched in the 1st quarter of the year**
- May – Constance Way house in Leeds celebrates 10 years**
- June – GPs get free access to the SignTranslate GP program which is featured on BBC See Hear programme**
- SignHealth publishes report following the publication of the 2008 national GP Patient survey. "Why do you keep missing me?" highlights the poorer health suffered by deaf people and the difficulties they face in access to healthcare**
- 2009**
- SignTranslate launches hospital version of its on-line interpreting service at Royal United Hospital Bath**
- Grant Court, the Birmingham project moves to new premises named "Polestar" in Sutton Coldfield.**

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SignHealth report issued following the 2009 GP Patient survey. “Why do you still keep missing me?” reinforced the previous findings.

First phase of major research project gets under way funded by SignHealth. Deaf people around the country encouraged to register to take part. Big Lottery agree to fund the 2nd and 3rd phases of the project.

SignHealth teams up with Dering Employment services to launch Deaf Stepping Stones project to help deaf people in London with additional needs to get into the workplace or onto training schemes.

Deaf Opportunities for Volunteering in London is launched as a three year scheme aimed at recruiting deaf volunteers to liaise with Primary Care centres in the capital and highlight the needs of deaf people within the healthcare system.

Two BBC See Hear programmes feature SignHealth’s research project and supported housing for deaf people with enduring mental health needs.

SignHealth International launched. Our first overseas project is focussed on the needs of deaf children and families in Uganda. Working in Partnership with the Woodford Foundation, a local manager, Paul Ssentenza has been appointed.