

New College Lanarkshire

**FINAL BRITISH SIGN
LANGUAGE (BSL)
PLAN 2018-2024**

Published October 2018

CONTENTS

SECTION 2	3
2.1 Introduction	3
2.2 Name and contact details of lead officer	4
2.3 Where to find the BSL version of this plan.....	4
SECTION 3	6
SECTION 4	6
4.1: Across all our services	6
4.2: Post-School Education.....	6
4.2: Post-School Education.....	7
4.3 Our contribution to other relevant long-term goals.....	8
4.3A: Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare.....	8
4.3B: School Education.....	8
4.3C: Training, Work and Social Security.....	8
4.3D: Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing	9
4.3E: Transport	9
4.3F: Culture and the Arts	9
4.3G: Democracy	9
SECTION 5	10
5.1 How to comment.....	10

SECTION 2:

2.1 Introduction

As required by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015, the Scottish Government published its first BSL National Plan on 24 October 2017. It was developed through extensive engagement with Deaf and Deafblind BSL users and those who work with them. It sets out Scotland's ambition to be the best place in the world for BSL users to live, work and visit. It includes 10 long-term goals and 70 actions the Scottish Government will take by 2020 to help make progress towards these goals. The 10 long term goals are:

1. **Scottish Public Services** - Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users*.
2. **Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare** - The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL.
3. **School Education** - Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child's education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school.
4. **Post School Education** - BSL users* will be able to maximise their potential at school, will be supported to transition to post-school education if they wish to do so and will receive the support they need to do well in their chosen subject(s).
5. **Training, Work and Social Security** - BSL users* will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland's economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career.
6. **Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing** - BSL users* will have access to the information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives.
7. **Transport** - BSL users* will have safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport and the systems that support all transport use in Scotland.
8. **Culture and the Arts** - BSL users* will have full access to the cultural life of Scotland, and an equal opportunity to enjoy and contribute to culture and the arts, and are encouraged to share BSL and Deaf culture with the people of Scotland.
9. **Justice** - BSL users* will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems in Scotland.
10. **Democracy** - BSL users* will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies.

* Wherever we refer to 'BSL users*' we mean D/deaf and/or Deafblind people (those who receive the language in a tactile form due to sight loss) whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language.

This British Sign Language (BSL) Plan, sets out the actions New College Lanarkshire will undertake during the period 2018-2024 to achieve the same long-term goals as the national plan, where these are relevant to the work of the College.

New College Lanarkshire is committed to protecting and supporting BSL through the delivery of our Introduction to BSL and BSL Level 1 courses. Our team of communication support workers who are all qualified to BSL level 6 or equivalent also ensure applicants, students, staff and visitors can access all College services.

In developing this plan we have consulted with our current BSL users. Feedback will also be gathered from our Partner Agencies, such as, BDA Scotland; Deaf Action; Deafblind Scotland; NDCS Scotland; Scottish Council on Deafness; Scottish Government.

We are committed to continued engagement with individuals and organisations and it is our intention to continue to do so. This plan will be published on our website in English and BSL.

2.2 Name and contact details of lead officer

If you have any questions or comments regarding our British Sign Language (BSL).

Gayle Gallacher

Educational Support Manager

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British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#)

The logo for 'contact SCOTLAND BSL' features the word 'contact' in a purple, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, 'SCOTLAND' is written in a larger, blue, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'BSL' is written in a purple, uppercase, sans-serif font, with the letters 'B', 'S', and 'L' stacked vertically.

2.3 Where to find the BSL version of this plan

The BSL version of this plan is available on the College website, where you can also leave feedback.

www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk/BSL

SECTION 3:

This British Sign Language (BSL) Plan, sets out the actions New College Lanarkshire will undertake during the period 2018-2024 to achieve the same long-term goals as the national plan, where these are relevant to the work of the College.

This plan also sets out our ambitions to promote and support BSL throughout our services. Progress towards the actions within this plan, will be included within our Regional Outcome Agreement as required by the Scottish Funding Council to ensure that inequalities experienced by students who use BSL are being addressed.

Throughout this plan, we have highlighted where our actions meet those from the National Plan by adding the corresponding number.

Although at this time the College has not included any actions toward the long terms goal of Justice, this will be reviewed and amended as appropriate. Additional actions towards other long terms goals may also added.

SECTION 4:

BSL NATIONAL PLAN FOR NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE

4.1: Across all our services

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

- [2] Analyse existing evidence we have about students and prospective students who use BSL in our college; identify and fill key information gaps so that we can establish baselines and measure outcomes for BSL users.
- [3,4] Improve information and services for students, prospective students and visitors who use BSL, including making our website more accessible to BSL users.
- [5] Promote the use of the Scottish Government’s nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay services called ‘contactSCOTLAND-BSL’, which allows BSL users to contact public and their sector services and for these services to contact them.
- [6] Deliver appropriate BSL awareness training to staff who work with BSL users.
- [6] Deliver appropriate BSL awareness training to class groups who have BSL users.

4.2: Post-School Education

We share the long-term goal for post- school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will be able to maximise their potential at school, will be supported to transition to post-school education if they wish to do so, and will receive the support they need to do well in their chosen subject(s)”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

[25] We will take action to ensure that students and prospective students who use BSL are properly supported. This includes:

- Providing accessible information about what BSL users can expect from the college.
- Full access to open days for prospective students who use BSL.
- Support throughout the student journey for students who use BSL (including completing application forms, interviews, applying for Disabled Students Allowance, attending Graduation Ceremony).
- Support during the transition process, school – college or college – university.
- Access to information within the college campus.
- Fully accessible rooms within our Halls of Residence.

Establish baseline data on students who use BSL and use this to measure and improve outcomes for students.

[26] Take on board guidance/advice produced by the SFC and others to ensure that across the college, staff are aware of their responsibilities towards BSL users, and that students who use BSL know what to expect.

Invite continuous feedback from students/prospective students and staff who use BSL over the coming year/18 months after adopting this plan.

Commit to reviewing/refreshing this plan which includes more ‘local’ actions (based on that feedback) after the national progress report (due October 2020).

[27] Provide assistance (including examples) to students who use BSL to help them complete SAAS application forms.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER RELEVANT LONG-TERM GOALS.

4.3A: Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

[10] Embed deaf awareness training, and/or BSL level 1 in our Early Learning and Childcare course provision.

Ensure College nurseries are fully accessible and welcoming for parents and children who use BSL.

4.3B: School Education

We share the long-term goal for school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child’s education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

[23] Continue to deliver the Introduction to BSL to schools groups.

4.3C: Training, Work and Social Security

We share the long-term goal for training, work and social security set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland’s economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

[35] Raise awareness of the UK Government’s ‘Access to Work’ scheme for students who use BSL towards the end of their course, so that they can benefit from the support it provides when they enter the world of work.

Raise awareness of the UK Government’s ‘Access to Work’ scheme for those who use BSL when advertising staff vacancies.

Continue to support students who use BSL on work placements.

4.3D: Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing

We share the long-term goal for health, mental health and wellbeing set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will have access to the information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

[39] When available, publish the NHS BSL version of all screening and immunisation information (Bowel, Breast and Cervical) and seasonal flu immunisation on the college website.

[44] Continue to support students who use BSL to register with GP and Dental practices.

[45] Take steps to ensure that the health/mental health services (including advice and counselling services) within the college are fully accessible to students and staff who use BSL.

4.3E: Transport

We share the long-term goal for transport set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will have safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport and the systems that support all transport use in Scotland”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

Ensure that any BSL users using college transport are notified of any changes by text.

[53] Offer deaf awareness training to contracted transport providers.

4.3F: Culture and the Arts

We share the long-term goal for culture and the arts set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will have full access to the cultural life of Scotland, an equal opportunity to enjoy and contribute to culture and the arts, and are encouraged to share BSL and Deaf Culture with the people of Scotland”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

- Take action to ensure that extracurricular/recreational activities offered within the college are accessible to students who use BSL.

4.3G: Democracy

We share the long-term goal for democracy set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies”

Our Actions

By 2024, we will:

Encourage and support BSL users to become members of the Students association and to campaign for elected positions.

Encourage and support BSL users to become class reps.

SECTION 5:

What happens next?

5.1 How to comment

To comment on this British Sign Language (BSL) Plan, please contact:

Gayle Gallacher

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1 Enterprise Way,
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ML1 2TX

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Email: gayle.gallacher@nclan.ac.uk

British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#)



The BSL version of this plan is available on the College website, where you can also leave feedback.
www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk/BSL

Please contact Gayle Gallacher (details above) if you would like to continue to be involved as we further develop/implement the actions in our plan.