

Deaf Charter Working Group (DCWG) Terms of Reference

AIMS

To maintain an overview of the needs and wellbeing of the Derbyshire Deaf and hard of hearing communities and to implement the 5 pledges of the Deaf Charter.

1. Purpose

The DCWG will create an action plan to implement the 5 pledges of the Deaf Charter in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, and the Council's Public Sector Duties for Equality and Diversity.

The 5 pledges are to:-

- Ensure access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to information and services
- Promote learning and high quality teaching of British Sign Language and other methods of communication used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
- Support Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and families
- Ensure staff working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people can communicate effectively in British Sign Language and other methods of communication
- Consult with our local Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities on a regular basis.

2. Key Responsibilities of the DCWG

The DCWG key responsibility will be to maintain an overview of the needs of the Derbyshire deaf and hard of hearing population. In addition they will:-

- Work with local community members on communicating developments on the charter and how the community can get involved.
- Encourage the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Derbyshire to be able to have a say on issues that affect them and noticeably influence the decisions that are made
- Identify barriers to services and participation for the deaf and hard of hearing community
- Meet with the local community to get their ideas on how to achieve charter pledges
- Allocate Council Officers specific tasks to help the Council implement pledges
- Develop an action plan on how to implement the 5 pledges of the Deaf Charter
- To provide information, advice and guidance on Deaf and hard of hearing issues and to share best practice.
- To signpost staff and promote awareness of available resources for Deaf and hard of hearing employees and local communities

3. Membership of the DCWG

Council Officers in all 5 departments of the Council
British Deaf Association Representatives
Deaf Community Representatives/ BSL users
Disabled Workers Group
Derbyshire Deaf and hard of hearing groups
Deaf & Hearing Support

5. Conduct of meetings

The DCWG will meet at least 4 times per year and will produce minutes of meetings and these will be published on the Council website.

6. Authority and Accountability

The DCWG is part of the Council's equalities programme. It will link into the Chief Officers Group, the Disabled Workers Group, The British Deaf Association and will feedback progress at least annually to the Derbyshire Inclusion Board.

September 2014- September 2017