

Appendix 1:

Argyll and Bute Council's British Sign Language Plan 2024-2030.

Introduction

Following the Scottish Government's publication of its National British Sign Language Plan in November 2023, Argyll and Bute Council is producing its own, local British Sign Language plan.

This plan differs from the previous plan for Argyll and Bute in that the previous plan was produced jointly with NHS Highland and Live Argyll. While we will continue to coordinate our activities, the council's 2024-2030 plan has been produced as a single-agency plan. In keeping with this approach, NHS Highland is reporting separately on progress made with its actions from the previous plan; they are not reported here.

Because this plan focuses on the council, the number of actions is reduced compared to the previous plan. We have also worked to keep this realistic within the resources available.

This plan is indicative. One of the actions within it is to produce a more detailed implementation plan within the first 12 months of this plan's life.

The document is comprised of two parts. The first reports on progress made during the lifetime of our previous plan. The second outlines our goals and objectives for the second plan.

Progress made over the life of the previous plan (2018-2024).

We Said, We Did

1. In the previous plan, we said we would **add a link to the Contact Scotland BSL service on each school's website**

This action was completed by October 2020.

As a number of websites have been updated or replaced since 2020, we will carry out a review to

This also helps identify those employers who are committed to inclusion and diversity in the workplace. We can also include Access to Work scheme when promoting Disability Confident.

8. We said we would **continue to make sure interpreter support is available to young people to access work placements, and deaf awareness training is provided before the placement starts.**

Support for people on placements is considered on a case-by-case basis.

9. We said we would **signpost pupils and students to a wide range of information, advice and guidance in BSL about their career and learning choices and the transition process.**

Skills Development Scotland has produced a Careers Information Advice and Guidance offer video available on the [My World of Work](#)

Lessons learned from the previous plan:

The Joint BSL plan 2018-2024 for Argyll and Bute was approved in 2018. Since then, the environment in which we operate has changed considerably. The upheavals associated with the covid pandemic

5. Comply with the inclusion communication regulation.
6. Publish a progress report in 2027, halfway through the life of the plan, being mindful of its relation to the national plan.

These actions align with the national Plan goal: To improve outcomes for BSL users by embedding BSL in relevant Scottish Government policies, plans and strategies in order to develop solutions to the barriers faced by BSL users in their daily lives.

BSL Accessibility

Long-term goal: **Raise awareness around the culture of BSL and enable people to access services using their own language.**

Actions:

7. Ensure our website is accessible for BSL users and an agreed range of content is provided in BSL format.
8. Continue to have Contact Scotland (e)1.7 (h(0d)0.5n5 (o)-4e9(3vn)-1 Tc -00 6 o)-4.1.8 -6.

Access to Employment

Long-term goal: **Support BSL users to access the labour market.**

Actions:

13. Ensure BSL users are signposted to the employability programme which best meets their individual needs.

This action aligns with the national plan goal: BSL users will receive person-centred support to develop their skills, consider what route to employment is right for them and enter into the 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.

Democratic Participation

Long-term goal: **Take 50 BSL-users to participate in democratic processes (national, regional, local, and international).** Tc 43