**Access to British Sign Language for families of deaf children**

1. Do you provide funding for parents of deaf/hearing impaired children to access sign language training?
2. If yes, up to what British Sign Language (BSL) level do you fund (i.e. Level 1, 2 or 3)
3. Is there a charge to parents to access sign language training? If yes, please give details.
4. What criteria must be met to obtain funding?
5. Is childcare provided for parents learning BSL?
6. Is funding available for both parents to learn BSL

There is no funding available to families for sign language training. Should families choose this as there preferred communication method we signpost them to baby sign, Signs and Symbols courses run by local speech therapists and local family sign language courses delivered by the NDCS. If families request formal BSL courses we help them find one in their locality.

1. Have you developed any proposals to enable parents to use personal budgets to access BSL courses?

Although we have not developed any proposals yet, parents would be supported if they chose to use their personal budget on sign training.

1. Do you have a named contact within your local authority for families of deaf/hearing impaired children who are interested in learning sign language? If yes, please give details.

Families contact would be the Teacher of the Deaf that supports that family.

1. Have you funded a sign language course specifically aimed at families (such as a Family Sign Language\* course) in the past three years?

No

1. Do you currently have any proposals to fund a sign language course specifically aimed at families in the next 12 months?

None

1. Do you currently provide information to parents of deaf/hearing impaired children where they can learn BSL within the local authority or nearby?

Yes we help them find the right training in accordance with their needs.

1. If yes to question 6, in what form is this information?

Leaflet, flyers, website links and BSL course run in local colleges, etc.

1. Do you have any other sources of support to provide families with access to opportunities to learn BSL?

Sign support from staff in the Hearing Impairment Team, in the form of target vocabulary in a pictorial/written form and observation/joint working.

1. Do you have a written policy around BSL learning for families? If yes, please attach to this response.

We have a communication policy based on informed choice but no written policy on BSL learning for families.

\*Family Sign Language is a curriculum developed by National Deaf Children’s Society that is typically delivered through 20 hours of tuition time.