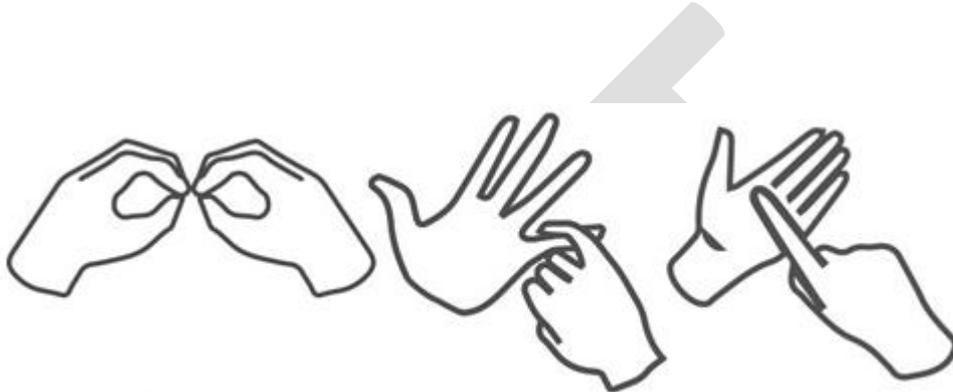




**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann



Clackmannanshire Council

**British Sign Language (BSL) Plan
Final Draft Priority Actions
2026-2032**

BSL, large print and 'Quick Read' versions of this plan are available at: [\[webpage \]](#)

Please note, whenever we refer to 'BSL users' we mean Deaf and /or Deafblind people (those who receive the language in tactile form due to sight loss) whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL).

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL BSL PLAN

Final Draft Priority Actions

1. BSL Accessibility

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

To remove accessibility as a barrier for BSL users in all aspects of life, recognising the importance of having accessible information in the right format at the right time, utilising technology and increasing people's awareness of communication tools.

By 2032, we will:

- 1.1. Make it easier for BSL users to find the information that relates to them on our website by creating a dedicated 'BSL page'.
- 1.2. Demonstrate recognition of the needs of BSL users at all stages of BSL learning by raising awareness among front-line staff of the range of communication support available.
- 1.3. Work with community planning partners and other relevant third sector support organisations, to streamline strategic BSL planning and delivery where appropriate.
- 1.4. Promote the use of the Scottish Government's nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay service '[contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#)' and the '999 BSL Service', to staff and to local BSL users¹.
- 1.5. Train frontline staff who come into contact with BSL users in BSL or BSL awareness training, as appropriate.
- 1.6. Review and maintain up-to-date arrangements for accessing interpretation, translation services and other support with communication.

2. Children, Young People and their Families

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

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a deaf or deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL. We will strengthen partnerships between relevant organisations to overcome barriers for BSL users and deaf/ deafblind children to ensure they have the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential.

By 2032, we will:

- 2.1. Implement pathways to information and practical support that respond appropriately to the needs of children, young people and their families at the right time.

¹ *These are free services that enable BSL users to communicate, in real-time, with public and emergency services via a video link with a BSL/English interpreter*

- 2.2. Respond to the needs of early years staff for information about BSL and Deaf culture, resources that are available in BSL and tools, such as [Education Scotland's BSL Toolkit for Practitioners](#), that help them engage effectively with families with a BSL user.
- 2.3. Continue to offer information on additional support for children with hearing loss to make it easier for parents to access the support they need for their child.

3. Access to Employment

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

BSL users will receive person-centred support to develop their skills, consider what route to employment is right for them and enter 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.

By 2032, we will:

- 3.1. Signpost pupils and students to a wide range of nationally available information, advice and guidance in BSL about their career and learning choices and the transition process.
- 3.2. Continue to work with partners and organisations who deliver employability support and services (both in-house and externally commissioned support), and with employers and business support organisations, to ensure the needs of BSL users are accommodated in routes to employment.
- 3.3. Continue to raise awareness with BSL users locally of the support available under national programmes such as the UK Government's [Access to Work](#) (AtW) and [No One Left Behind](#).

4. Health and Wellbeing

We share the long-term goal 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.

By 2032, we will:

- 4.1. Recognising the reliance of BSL users of all ages on services such as newborn hearing screening, audiology, education support, speech and language therapy, and support for transitions throughout life, we will direct BSL users to appropriate accessible information through the communication channels of relevant Services and organisations, and ensure we provide accessible social care services to BSL users
- 4.2. Ensure that local work to tackle mental ill health and social isolation explicitly considers the needs of BSL users.

5. Celebrating BSL Culture

We share the long-term goal 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.

By 2032, we will:

- 5.1. Build links with the existing expertise in the various organisations that can help us improve access to and integration with culture and the arts locally for BSL users.

6. BSL Data

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

To strengthen the evidence and data on the BSL community in Scotland to better inform decision making in public policy and service design

By 2032, we will:

- 6.1. Build our Client Record System to include a 'BSL flag' to enable us to tailor services to the needs of BSL users who need our Services
- 6.2. Build working relationships with organisations and within networks which will help improve our understanding of the needs of our BSL users with regard in particular to how we deliver our services inclusively in communities.

7. Democratic Participation

We share the long-term goal 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

By 2032, we will:

- 7.1. Continue to work with the Electoral Registration Office, and local support organisations, to maximise use of resources which support BSL users to participate in democratic and public life, including providing the necessary adaptations during elections.
- 7.2. Circulate information on democratic participation to relevant groups, promoting the Access to Elected Office Fund locally, which can meet the additional costs of BSL users wishing to stand for selection or election in local or Scottish Parliament elections.