



Manifesto for a **FAIRER FUTURE**

Education and training

Access to communication and language

Audiology

Employment

Health

Social work and social care

Scottish Council on Deafness

Encouraging effective engagement with deaf people

Introduction

The efforts made by the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Executive and other bodies in increasing the social inclusion of deaf people has not gone unnoticed. However, far more needs to be done.

Our manifesto for a fairer future details the ‘what’ and the ‘how’.

One in five Scots has a hearing loss and feels unequal to their hearing peers. In spite of legislation, discrimination and disadvantage persist.

The Disability Equality Duty should go some way to address the deficit, but this will only happen if it is recognised that deaf people are distinct from other disabled people and that their communication needs can differ from person to person.

Deaf people have a voice and that voice should be sought when considering issues which directly affect them.

This manifesto has been produced for electoral candidates to consider before the forthcoming elections. After the elections, its usefulness continues as an active checklist to monitor the improvement to services for deaf people.



deaf *n.* when we use the term ‘deaf’ we mean it to include people on the full spectrum of deafness: Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people

BSL *n.* British Sign Language, the language of British deaf people





Education and training

For a fairer future, we need you to ensure that:

- ❑ All teachers of deaf pupils are trained to a minimum BSL² Level 3
- ❑ All deaf children are taught BSL by qualified deaf teachers
- ❑ BSL is offered as an optional language for all school pupils as part of the *Curriculum for Excellence*
- ❑ The recruitment and training of specialist teachers and speech & language therapists is fully funded
- ❑ Deaf people in further or higher education can fully access their course of study through the provision of communication support
- ❑ Resources are provided to follow the 'Deaf Friendly Schools' guidelines prepared by the National Deaf Children's Society
- ❑ A programme to build special schools and units for deaf children is fully funded
- ❑ Young deaf people have full access to employment opportunities through the provision of resources for their training
- ❑ The availability of lipreading classes is improved by providing long-term funding for training lipreading tutors and developing a recognised national qualification

Access to communication and language



For a fairer future, we need you to:

- ❑ Improve access to information by providing secure, long-term funding to train more communication support professionals[❑]
- ❑ Establish a Deaf Studies Degree Course in at least one Scottish university
- ❑ Continue to promote compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act for accessible information and improve access to information about the Act
- ❑ Provide resources to support the *Access to Communication in English* campaign
- ❑ Continue to be a model of good practice, offering information in a range of formats[❑] to ensure that the democratic process is accessible to deaf people
- ❑ Support the campaign to increase TV subtitling on all channels and transmit signed programmes at a more sociable hour

communication support professionals *n.*

can include the following: BSL/English interpreter, lipspeaker, notetaker, deafblind guide/communicator, deafblind interpreter and verbatim speech to text reporter



formats *n.*

can include the following: BSL, plain English, braille or moon, subtitling and new visual technology eg. videotelephony



Audiology

For a fairer future, we need you to:

- ❑ Continue funding the modernisation of audiology services, reducing waiting times to 18 weeks or less
- ❑ Provide more resources to specialist organisations, developing a joined up pathway of rehabilitation services for people with acquired or dual sensory loss. This will allow access to the full range of appropriate medical, communication and social support services
- ❑ Provide resources to improve support services for parents of newly-diagnosed deaf children and continue this until the children are placed in school
- ❑ Provide more resources for an accessible information pack for parents of newly-diagnosed deaf children

Employment

For a fairer future, we need you to:

- ❑ Continue to provide full Access to Work support which meets the needs of all deaf employees
- ❑ Provide resources to improve access to employment agencies and job centres for deaf and deafblind people
- ❑ Support people who lose their hearing or acquire dual sensory loss during their working lives to retain employment by educating and supporting employers
- ❑ Set a good example by employing more deaf people





Health

**For a fairer future,
we need you to:**

- ❑ **Ensure that all health services, including NHS24 and all health information are fully accessible to deaf people**
- ❑ **Provide secure, sustainable long-term funding to establish and deliver specialist mental health services for deaf people in Scotland**
- ❑ **Provide more secure and sustainable long-term funding for deaf organisations to support their valuable contribution to health improvement**
- ❑ **Ensure that the communication needs of deaf patients are indicated on their health records**
- ❑ **Ensure that health service providers arrange and pay for patient communication support¹⁴ when required**
- ❑ **Provide more secure and long-term sustainable funding for lipreading classes. These classes to be available, free of charge, for all individuals with acquired hearing loss**
- ❑ **Encourage people over 50 years of age to have regular hearing tests**



communication support *n.*
can include BSL/English interpreter,
deafblind communicator, notetaker,
lipspeaker, loop system etc





Social work and social care

For a fairer future, we need you to:

- ❑ Implement the new Sensory Impairment Policy and Practice Guidance when launched**
- ❑ Provide resources to improve social work and social care services by recruiting and training more specialist staff**
- ❑ Include deaf and deafblind awareness and communication skills training in all courses for social work and social care staff**
- ❑ Ensure that provision of equipment and aids for deaf people is consistently good throughout Scotland**
- ❑ Minimise the social isolation of elderly deaf people through improved care services and sustainable funding to specialist charitable organisations providing vital one-to-one support**
- ❑ Ensure that deaf people are involved in every stage of their care planning process**



Scottish Council on Deafness
...giving deaf people a voice in Scotland

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SCoD works tirelessly to improve the lives of deaf and deafblind people in Scotland, to help promote their rights as individuals and to reduce their sense of exclusion. We make a real difference to the lives of deaf people in Scotland but need your help to continue doing so.

Please give generously.

- Give a one-off donation
- Raise sponsorship on our behalf
- Give a gift in kind
- Become a volunteer
- Leave us a legacy

For more information about supporting SCoD, please do not hesitate to contact us.

thanks!

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