

Please contact us on

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Group Work

This information can be made available
in other formats. Please contact us for details.

Communication staff – interpreters and note-takers

If a member of the communication staff attends your group sessions with a deaf student, the following general points are worth remembering

1 It is the responsibility of the deaf student to book and cancel communication staff. To make the most of the communication service, information about **when** meetings will take place, **where** and for **how long** needs to be discussed while the deaf student is present.

2 The communication staff will attend group meetings as professionals and as such will not help the deaf student with their work, they will simply enable effective communication. As such, communication staff are there for everyone's benefit and it is everyone's responsibility to be clear about what they want to say.

Communication staff will not take part in the discussion or offer advice and should not be asked questions or asked for their views.

4 Communication staff will not be able to do their job if more than one person is talking at once. To begin with, groups will need to be reminded but it will become quite natural to take turns more strictly than usual when speaking.

Interpreters will work between two languages British Sign language and English in both directions. They will voice over signed contributions from the deaf student and will sign the spoken contributions to the deaf student. Interpreters will not add anything, they will try not to miss information out and they will relay the message in the same way as it was originally said eg sarcastically, as a joke, loudly etc.

Note-takers will write as much as possible of what is said. They may have to rearrange information to write it down fast enough but they will not add to it or alter the meaning of it.

All of the above staff are qualified to do these jobs to a very high standard. They should be treated with respect and it should be remembered that they are there for the benefit of the whole group.

Communication staff will require clarification of what has been said from time to time. They may also ask you to slow down, speed up or to rephrase something. All group members can rely on the support of the communication staff.