



British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan

2024 – 2030

(Easy Read Version)

About this plan



The Scottish Government wants Scotland to be the best place in the world for British Sign Language (BSL) users to live, learn, work and visit.




Every six years, organisations in Scotland must write a plan to show how they will include BSL users. This also means showing how they will make more information available in BSL.



In Highland, the Highland Council and NHS Highland have written their plan together.

The 2024 to 2030 plan

<div>BSL Accessibility</div> <div></div> <div><p>Accessibility means how easy it is to use services and understand information.</p></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will make sure that all BSL users have a BSL Interpreter when they need one to use our services.• We will make sure that we have more information in BSL.• We will make sure that our websites are easy to use.• We will meet with BSL users four times a year and will listen to what you tell us you need.
<div>Children, Young People and their Families</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will give families and staff the right information to meet the needs of BSL users who are children or young people.• We will make sure that children and young people have a BSL Interpreter and support when they need it.• We will work with schools in Highland to teach more people BSL.
<div>Access to Employment</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will make sure that people know about Access to Work.• We will work in Highland to create more opportunities for BSL users. <p>Opportunities means the possibility of doing something you would like to do.</p>

Health and Wellbeing



- We will continue to offer BSL Mental Health services.
- We will work in our communities to make sure that deaf and deafblind BSL users are not lonely.
- We will work with our staff to help them to be aware of the needs of deaf and deafblind people.

Celebrating BSL Culture



- We will work together, and with the local Deaf Community, to celebrate BSL.

BSL Data



- We will make sure that we have the right information about deaf and deafblind BSL users so that we can help them to have healthy and happy lives.

Data is information that we have that help us to make decisions.

Access to Services



Transport:

- We will work with local transport companies to make it easier for deaf and deafblind BSL users to travel by **public transport**.

Housing:

- We will work with deaf and deafblind BSL users to help them live independently in houses provided by the Highland Council.

Access to Leisure Services:

- We will work with High Life Highland to help make it easier for deaf and deafblind BSL users to use leisure services, libraries and museums.

Democratic Participation



Participation means to take part in something and to have your say.

- We will make sure that there is BSL information on the Highland Council website on how to vote and take part in elections.
- We will encourage people to use Contact Scotland BSL to help BSL users vote and to speak to their Councillors.
- We will make sure that it is possible for deaf and deafblind BSL users to make complaints in a way that meets their needs.
- We will work and meet with deaf and deafblind BSL users to make sure that our services meet their needs.