

The Council's BSL Plan for 2025-30

Our ambition is for BSL users to be fully involved in daily and public life in Edinburgh, as active, healthy citizens, able to make informed choices about every aspect of their lives.

For this to happen, equal access, opportunity, representation, and inclusion for all BSL users, needs to be understood as a fundamental right.

Principles

Feedback from the national plan highlighted a range of principles to guide delivery of the plan:

- **Equality** of access, opportunity, representation and inclusion for BSL users are a fundamental right.
- **Whole system approach**, which embeds actions across policies and services to address the barriers faced by BSL users.
- **Collaboration and partnership working** with BSL users in shaping how information and services are provided.
- **Choice**: BSL users need to have the freedom to choose and make informed decisions about their communication preferences and their access to public life is a key measure of equality.
- **Staff are supported** to have the knowledge and skills they need in their role to effectively support BSL users.
- **We celebrate the strengths and value** of the Deaf community and Deaf culture.

Action areas

There are nine themes which frame the actions for the plan:

- Accessibility
- Children, young people and families
- Employment
- Health and wellbeing
- Celebrating BSL culture
- Transport
- Justice
- Democracy
- Delivering our plan

Each of the nine themes is set out in the next section. For each, we have set out what we want to achieve and the broad actions that we will take over the next six years. Detailed implementation plans for the delivery of these actions will be developed in collaboration with BSL users throughout the life of the plan.