



ZEBRA

access

Deirdre Maguire
Community Development Officer
1st November 2022
Thinking outside the Tick Box

Zebra Access

Zebra Access CIO is a Deaf- led charity based in Wolverhampton covering the Black Country and surrounding areas.

We provide services and support to Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing people with thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund. Services includes Employment Services, English/Maths tutorials, Advocacy, Community Development, BSL/Deaf Awareness, drop-in sessions dealing with a range of queries, complaints, form filling, and many more.

We aim to provide Deaf role models, enabling Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing people to have self belief and confidence to achieve their aspirations by breaking down barriers.

We provide services to support Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing individuals along with a variety of events, clubs and activities. We also deliver Deaf Awareness and BSL training to organisations and individuals who work with Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing communities and individuals.



Zebra Access Services

- Advocacy
 - Drop-in sessions
 - 1 to 1 appointments (including home visits etc)
 - Video call access
- BSL/Deaf Awareness Training
- Community Development
- Well-Being
 - Coffee mornings
 - Trips
 - Workshops
 - 1 to 1 support
 - Group sessions
 - Be-friending
- Employment
 - Holistic Employment support (including in work support i.e. ATW)
 - English & Maths tutorials

The Zebra Access team



Chris Beech
Project Development
Manager



Deirdre Maguire
Community
Development
Officer



Dawn Lynch
BSL & Deaf
Awareness Tutor



Ella Gadsby
Wellbeing Officer



Bob Marsh
Fundraising
Officer



Trent Szilva-
Beasley
Advocacy /IAG
Officer



Jo Barber
Social Media
Officer



Who Am I?

Deirdre

- Deaf family
- One BA (hons) degree
- Two Post graduate degrees
- Specialist area- Deaf adult education
- I work as a Community Development Officer for Zebra Access

Community Development- what is it?

Community Development is vital to enable growth and change for the communities within the Black Country.

Community Development seeks to empower individuals and groups of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people with the skills they need to effect change within their communities.

I also support other services at Zebra Access to ensure all our communities have access to all services and a full understanding of resources provided. Additionally, I work alongside professional bodies to improve the accessibility for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people.

Facts about Deafness

- 11 million people in the UK have some form of deafness
- There are around 340,000 deafblind people in UK
- 1 in 6 will become deaf/hard of hearing
- Deafness is 2nd most common disability in UK
- Approx. 90% deaf children are born to hearing parents
- Deaf people are twice more likely to develop mental health illnesses than their hearing peers but least likely to access support
- As of April 2022, BSL is one of UK's main languages along with English, Scots Gaelic and Welsh.

Barriers Deaf People/Communities face

- Bilingual language are more often not offered as early language development leading to late language acquisition. Why?
- Society's attitude on focusing on **fixing** the 'hearing and the speech'
- Access to mainstream services- Deaf people are often an afterthought
- Just providing communication access is not a solution- accessibility is more than just that
- Not being included in daily conversations, news, information, gossip etc
- Inaccessible services i.e. GP, Hospitals, Audiology, Councils, general retailers etc
- ABLEISM and AUDISM

Solutions

- Don't place burden of communication on us
- Learn to sign!
- Make society more accessible with small steps-
 - Captioning your social media content, it not just for deaf people but also for people who use English as a second language, and it improves your literacy skills!
 - Visual information
 - Alternative contact methods
- Ensure budget for interpreters, speech to text, BSL/Deaf consultants, BSL courses are factored in your funding, grant, event, or training applications.
- When planning- bring a Deaf person on board from start- not at the end.
- Include Deaf people on your forums, boards and **LISTEN** to their lived experiences

Follow us @



www.zebra-access.com



[zebra_access](#)



[ZebraAccess](#)



[Zebra Access](#)

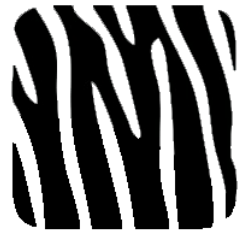


[Zebra Access](#)



deirdre@zebra-access.com





ZEBRA

access

www.zebra-access.com