



Angus Council

British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024 – 2030

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SECTION 2:

2.1 Introduction

The BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 required public bodies in Scotland, by 24th October 2018, to publish a local BSL Plan, aligned to the BSL National Plan, and subsequent BSL Plans every 6 years. This is Angus Council's second BSL Plan, 2024 -2030, and it is framed around the same long-term goals as the BSL National Plan 2023-2029 which was published in October 2023. The National Plan was developed through extensive engagement with BSL users, deaf people and Deafblind BSL users and those who work with them. Throughout our Plan, we refer to 'BSL (British Sign Language) users'. This covers all people whose first or preferred language is BSL including those who receive the language in a tactile form due to sight loss.

We are committed to protecting and supporting BSL, including its tactile form. BSL is a language in its own right, with its own grammar, syntax and vocabulary. It has its own dialects and is a language which enables many of our BSL users, to learn, work, parent and to make their contribution to our communities, our culture and our economy. The number of people in Angus who stated in the 2011 census that they used BSL at home was 262, and we are looking to address their needs in ways most appropriate to them, wherever possible.

2.2 Consultation and Engagement

In April 2018, an internal BSL implementation group was established to take forward the requirements of the BSL legislation. Membership of the group consisted of representation from council service areas listed in the National Plan, and included our partner organisations, ANGUSalive (for leisure and culture), and the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. These organisations/council services have been delivering actions in the BSL action plan 2018 -2024, and they have contributed to our new BSL Plan 2024 – 2030.

In January and February 2024, we were a partner in engagement events with Dundee City Council, Perth & Kinross Council, and NHS Tayside, to consult with BSL users, their families and support organisations. The January event was chaired by the British Deaf Association. The second event in February focused more on the experience BSL users have had using council services etc, over the last six years, and what they would like to see in our new Plan. There were 25 - 30 BSL users from across all three council areas in attendance over the course of both engagement events. The feedback from that event was helpful, and the results have been used to shape our draft Plan. In addition, as a result of the second engagement event, we are awaiting the involvement of a BSL user who has volunteered to work with us on some additions to our website.

Members of the Angus disability forum, run by Angus Council, of which Deaf Links is a member, also had the opportunity to contribute to our Plan. Deaf Links represents BSL users in Angus and Dundee. Membership of the forum is also open to BSL users themselves, should they wish to join. Through our consultation with the Forum, there has been a number of requests made regarding our new Plan, and all of these

are currently under investigation with the appropriate services. These requests are regarding:

- More accessible contact with council services via contactscotlandBSL, the national BSL video interpreting relay service.
- The addition of the contactScotlandBSL Logo to the email footers, along with a directline number the interpreter can call.
- Installing or replacing any new pedestrian crossings/traffic lights which show the "green man" on the opposite side of the road.
- More BSL interpreted performances at shows within theatres.
- Improve BSL access within museums and visitor attractions in Angus.
- Increase BSL cultural awareness with leisure and culture staff.
- Have maps of the bus route at the front of the bus near the card machine so BSL users can point to where they want off.
- Increased BSL awareness for taxi drivers.

Once investigated, these requests will be included as actions in our BSL Plan, where it is possible, and the outcome of these investigations will be fed back to BSL users.

We have asked BSL users if they would like us to keep in contact with them on an ongoing basis and we will look to develop our action plan in collaboration with them over the next six years. As stated, one person has already agreed to help us with the accessibility of BSL communication in particular, and members of the disability forum will be involved with/kept informed of any developments.

Internally, service directors, and members of the council's corporate equalities group have also been consulted on the contents of the Plan.

2.3 The National Plan 2023 – 2029 Aligned to Angus

The Angus BSL Plan ambitions are aligned to the 10 long-term goals as set out in the National Plan in the following way:

1. **Delivering a local BSL Plan 2024 – 2030.** We will embed the ambition of this Plan across council services.
2. **BSL Accessibility.** We will improve information and services for BSL users, being guided by them. BSL communities are underrepresented, and we want to ensure they have access to opportunities and services impacting on their daily lives, ensuring they have information in the right format and at the right time.
3. **Children, Young People and their Families.** The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a BSL user or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time. BSL children's rights will also be promoted under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

4. **Access to Employment.** BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career. We will embed the principles of No One Left Behind, the all-age approach to employability to enable BSL users to consider what route to employment is right for them.
5. **Health and Wellbeing.** We know person-centred healthcare involves providing access to and delivery of services that are equitable. BSL users will have access to health and social care information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives.
6. **Celebrating BSL Culture.** We will work with our partners to help to enable BSL users to have access to, and participate in, the wider cultural life of Angus, supporting them where possible to celebrate their own culture and heritage, encouraging them to share these with the wider population.
7. **BSL Data.** We recognise the need to use up-to-date data on BSL users which will help inform our work in delivering this BSL Plan.
8. **Transport.** We will work with our partners to embed BSL further within our transport system to ensure safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport is available to BSL users.
9. **Access to Justice.** We will work with partners to enable BSL users have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems.
10. **Democratic Participation.** We will support BSL users to be fully involved in democratic and public life, as active and informed citizens, as voters, and as elected politicians, recognising that accessibility and information are key to helping achieve this aim.

SECTION 3:

Short summary of the Angus Council BSL Plan:

Our aim for people whose first or preferred language is BSL is to improve the way they find out about our services and ensure they have equal access to them, by reducing the barriers to communication wherever possible. This links to the Council's Vision of:-



We will work with our partners ANGUSalive and the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure that BSL users in Angus can be active, healthy citizens, and enjoy inclusive cultural activities.

Some of the key actions from our Plan are:

Continue to offer the opportunity to attend BSL awareness training to all council staff, prioritising those dealing directly with the public.

Ensure BSL pupils have their educational needs met and are made aware of their rights under the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Continue to promote the opportunity to have BSL as a third language in schools through 1+2.

Work with BSL users to increase the number of BSL video clips on the council website for priority information on services.

Work with BSL users to improve accessibility of the website generally.

Continue to work with partners to eliminate barriers to accessing health and social care and improve the way adult social care is delivered.

Improve BSL information at certain locations regarding public transport.

Explore how the council as a major employer in the area can better promote access to employment and training opportunities for BSL users.

Continue to promote the use of the Scottish Government's nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay service called contactscotland-bsl.org, for contacting Angus Council.

SECTION 4:

BSL ACTION PLAN FOR ANGUS COUNCIL

4.1 Delivering our BSL Plan

Our Actions – What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

- We have offered a variety of training/awareness raising sessions regarding BSL/deafness over the last six years, as detailed in 4.2 below.
- As a partner in the Angus See Hear group, we have awarded See Hear funding to various sensory projects, which are inclusive of BSL users, and will continue to do so.

- We have installed sensory smoke alarms in council housing for the safety of BSL users and will continue to do so.
- We have involved people with various disabilities/organisations supporting them, to be consulted via the Angus Disability Forum, and Transport Forum, both of which includes BSL/deaf representation. This will continue.
- We have promoted the use of the Scottish Government's BSL online interpreting video relay services 'contactscotland-bsl.org' to staff and to local BSL users on our website. We will continue to highlight this free service for everyone to access.

By 2030

We will

- Offer more BSL training to staff, prioritising those with direct contact with the public. This will also be offered to AHSCP and Angus Alive staff, who are delivering some actions in our BSL Plan on our behalf. Funding has been awarded in 2024 from See Hear - a Scottish Government funded strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with sensory impairment in Scotland – for us to deliver:
 - Two certificated Introduction to BSL 10 week courses
 - A BSL Cultural Awareness training session
 - A Basic BSL session.
- Work with the Scottish Government to identify gaps in the existing data we have regarding BSL users in our area.
- Work with our disability forum and BSL users to continue to ensure our website is more accessible to BSL users and those with other disabilities.
- Explore using QR codes for information about council services.
- Continue to collaborate with partners Dundee City Council, Perth & Kinross Council and NHS Tayside wherever possible, ensuring that there is consistency of approach across the area, and minimising consultation fatigue.
- Continue to raise issues with the corporate equalities group regarding BSL users living and/or working in Angus, identify any barriers, and take steps to rectify these.

4.2 BSL Accessibility

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

- Since 2018 we have worked in partnership with Dundee City Council and Deaf Links to develop a video project which employs BSL users as interpreters for BSL videos. Several videos were produced for our respective websites, and we are looking to have more produced.
- Our BSL information video about rape and sexual assault, with the involvement of the Women's Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in Dundee, received feedback from the BSL community that it was a valuable and powerful initiative. It was shared on a national basis in 2023 through the British Deaf Association (BDA), NHS Scotland and Women's Aid. Since then, one of our partners, Deaf Links, has secured funding for an advocacy worker for BSL/deaf women experiencing gender-based violence in Angus.
- In 2023 we ran a six-week BSL Level 1 introductory training course for 18 members of staff. This was open to all staff. Those who took part did it for a variety of reasons, but mainly because they felt it would be useful for their work, and/or personal activities. We believe that if there are more staff who know basic BSL we can offer an improved service to BSL users.
- Over the last six years we have offered a number of BSL/Deaf Awareness sessions to staff. We have acquired a sensory e-learning awareness module, which is open to all staff to access. We have promoted the availability of long-term free lip-reading classes, which several staff have taken up.
- The North East Sensory Service (NESS) is the provider of our sensory services contract, and have delivered various sensory training courses throughout the last six years to our staff employed in the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP).
- In November 2022 we received feedback that no-one in Angus had used Contact Scotland, the national video BSL interpreting relay service, to communicate with the council, and no member of staff had used it to communicate with a BSL service user. Since then, we have ensured that Contact Scotland's details are on our website and have raised awareness of this means of communication again with our employees.
- In 2023 we received feedback from the British Deaf Association that BSL users found it difficult to find information in BSL on our website. From April 2023 the BSL logo was added to our webpages to enable BSL users to use it to take them directly to the relevant page.

By 2030

We will

- Use the video project to ensure there is a long-term sustainable social enterprise of BSL users providing the videos, as producers, interpreters etc. themselves.
- Offer further training in BSL to staff, prioritising those dealing directly with members of the public.
- Continue to provide other BSL/deaf awareness training and offer BSL cultural awareness training.
- Continue to access NESS training for staff employed in the AHSCP.
- Continue to promote information in BSL on our website.
- Continue to access a translation and interpretation service which is effective and satisfactory for BSL users.
- Continue to engage with BSL users to provide the information etc that they would find most useful.
- Continue to promote contactscotland-bsl.org.
- Ensure that the council's ambition to be digital by default does not exclude people who, for whatever means, cannot use the digital provision available.
- Increase the number of information videos in BSL, as guided by BSL users.

4.3: Children, Young People and their Families

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

We fully support the Scottish Government's aim to want all children and young people to live in an equal society that enables them to flourish, to be treated with kindness, dignity and respect, and to have their rights upheld at all times.

Their ambition is to work together with children, young people, families, organisations and communities to make Scotland the best place to grow up. Through GIRFEC, we can build the support children and young people need to grow up loved, safe and respected.

In working towards this commitment, the Scottish Government recognise the need to develop a clear pathway for deaf and deafblind children that helps promote the use of BSL at each stage in their education journey helping to maximise their potential at school, ensuring that have the right support to engage with BSL. Parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child's education.

In Angus we want to remove barriers for BSL users, deaf and deafblind children to ensure they have the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential. We see a crucial way of doing this is for barriers to communication between BSL children and their peers to be reduced. A number of primary schools in Angus now offer BSL as part of their 1+2 language programme:

Woodlands PS
Rosemount PS
Burnside PS
Inverarity PS,
Carmyllie & Arbirlot PS
Aberlemno PS
Lochside PS

We hope to build on this number.

By 2030

We will

- Ensure all children are fully aware of their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- Take account of any new guidance for teachers or support staff working with pupils who use BSL.
- Take steps to improve the way that teachers engage effectively with parents who use BSL.
- Continue to ensure that parents/carers who use BSL know how they can get further involved in their child's education.
- Continue teaching BSL at primary school level as part of the 1+2 language programme at and look to share good practice with other schools.
- Continue to encourage BSL users, deaf and deafblind pupil's involvement in developing practice to best suit their needs.
- Continue to ensure BSL pupils have access and understanding of Active Schools activities.
- Continue to embed the Youth Engagement Strategy's messages of empowerment and accessible communication within any new plans and strategies.

The Early Years service has:

- Circulated training available to staff in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and the Family Nurture Support team with regards to the National Deaf Children's Society.

- Received information, including on training available to staff in the Family Nurture Support team, regarding visual and hearing impairment, and circulated these with families as part of their parenting work where relevant.
- Highlighted the transition pathway for all children into ELC with supports from the Hearing Impairment staff so that settings can support children from the outset of their ELC journey. Relevant information is provided to all parents/carers who require this, and support is given.
- Ensured that as part of the Angus Transition Pathway for children with emerging Additional Support Needs (ASN), children receive bespoke, targeted support according to the needs of the child. This includes advice and support from the visual and hearing impairment teacher.
- ELC settings have adapted to the needs of the children and families. BSL has been taken forward by individual practitioners and can be a choice of language for 1+2 in school settings. However, Makaton tends to be used more regularly in settings as universal provision to support consistency with parental choice to meet the needs of children at home.

By 2030

The Early Years Service will continue to

- Provide Early Years staff within pre-school services with information about BSL and Deaf culture and make them aware of sources of advice and support available regarding BSL issues. In 2024 one of our nurseries is investigating delivering BSL training to their staff on one of their in-service days.
- Develop and share best practice when meeting the needs of BSL, deaf and deafblind children and their families.
- Deliver basic BSL to pre-school children when opportunities arise.

4.4: Access to Employment

We support the Scottish Government's statements in the National BSL Plan that Fair work practices are crucial at both individual level for worker and employer outcomes, and at a strategic level for Scotland's economic performance. By achieving equality of opportunity for all to access and progress in work, Fair Work can drive productivity, release untapped potential and inspire innovation.

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

In our Workforce Plan 2023 – 2028, we have recognised the importance of Fair Work for individuals and are positioning the council as an employer of choice. We

aim to provide work that offers effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment, and respect for all individuals, in line with our council values.

- We have raised awareness locally of how the 'Access to Work' (AtW) Scheme can support employees and managers in the recruitment and retention of BSL users (including Modern Apprentices). Promote the benefits of the AtW Scheme, including making reasonable adjustments in the workplace.
- Our first appointment of a BSL user was made. He was made permanent, having initially been appointed in a temporary capacity.
- We work in partnership with local employment service providers and employer groups already supporting employability, to signpost them to specific advice on the needs of BSL users and will continue to do so.
- We have collaborated with Deaf Links to identify opportunities to support BSL users obtain work as BSL interpreters, producers, and directors, by co-funding work with Dundee City Council to increase the number of BSL video clips on the council website for priority information on services. This will continue whenever opportunities arise.
- The Long-Term Unemployed Programme is a Scottish Government funded programme to help get people over the age of 25 who have been unemployed for 12 months or more, and face additional barriers to employment, into employment. Angus Council has had several success stories with Angus residents successfully going through the programme. It is open to everyone who meets these criteria.
- In 2022, as part of our commitment to increasing the number of people with disabilities, the council's Director of HR, OD, IT, Digital Enablement & Business Support took part in a reverse mentoring scheme with someone with a disability via Disability Connect, a disability inclusion specialist organisation which provides external, reverse disabled mentors to help organisations explore and unpick disability issues and pro-actively pursue diversity and inclusion goals. The mentor shares their unique disability insight to increase the knowledge, awareness and understanding of the mentee, which has been invaluable.

By 2030

We aim to:

- Achieve recognition as a "Fair Work" employer, aligning our workforce development and HR activity to the Fair Work Convention, which will provide a robust framework for building organisational resilience and sustainability, as stated in our Workforce Plan 2023 – 2028.
- Increase the diversity of our workforce, also as stated in the Workforce Plan.
- Make jobs more accessible to BSL users.

- Achieve Leader status under the Disability Confident scheme. In 2023 we renewed our Employer status, which has been held for several years, and are aiming for Leader accreditation within the lifetime of our BSL Plan.

4.5: Health and Wellbeing

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

Over the last six years, together with Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), NHS Tayside and ANGUSalive, there has been the following progress:

- There have been several health and social care publications and plans been made available in BSL and published via the AHSCP website.
- AHSCP have worked with our commissioned sensory services provider (NESS) to support BSL users to access the services they need. Awareness training sessions have taken place to improve staff members knowledge around sensory issues.
- We have ensured BSL users' views were at the centre of planning and developing care services which affected them, for example AHSCP sought the views of BSL users when developing the Physical Disability Improvement Plan. In addition, in 2023 consultation took place with BSL users to inform the new service specification for sensory provision in Angus.
- We have ensured that psychological therapies can be offered on a fair and equal basis to BSL users. The NHS Tayside Translation and Interpretation team ensure that health services are accessible to BSL users across all NHS Tayside services. There has been a number of improvements to the service over the last few years with an increased provision in BSL interpreters available, as well as increased use of technology to support BSL users. This improvement was commented on at our engagement events in 2024 and BSL users particularly welcomed this improvement when accessing GP appointments in Angus.
- AHSCP has worked with our commissioned sensory services provider to ensure various classes and supports are available which allow BSL users to come together which should help to prevent social isolation for BSL users in Angus.

By 2030

We will

- Continue to promote the availability of health and social care information available in BSL.

- Ensure that BSL interpreters are available to support BSL users when accessing health and social care services when required.
- Continue to improve access to information about sport, and to local sports facilities and sporting opportunities, including Active Schools activities.
- Provide inductions at leisure facilities in BSL.

4.6: Celebrating BSL Culture

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

Over the last six years we have:

- Enabled BSL users to take part in culture and the arts as audience members in the theatre and venues by engaging BSL interpreters to provide signed performances.
- Ensured that events/performances/talks where a BSL interpreter was available in the theatre/venues was advertised on our social media channels and website.
- Encouraged BSL users to consider a career in culture and the arts by providing work experience and volunteering opportunities, in particular in the museums and galleries where volunteering opportunities are available to all.
- Held a talk at the Tower Museum which was interpreted in BSL as a direct result of BSL users informing us of their wish for this, at an engagement event for our original BSL Plan.
- Improved access to the historical environment and cultural events for BSL users. In 2024 a gallery tour of the Meffan with a BSL interpreter in attendance took place, as the first in a series of several planned similar events.
- Promoted previous BSL pantomime performances through deaf organisations and schools.
- Promoted Sign Language Week to our staff in our weekly staff newsletter.

By 2030

We will:

- Continue to enable BSL users to take part in culture and the arts as participants and audience members.
- Continue to encourage any BSL users to consider a career in culture and the arts by providing work experience and volunteering opportunities where possible.
- Improve access to the historical environment, cultural events, and performing arts and films by holding a series of visits which have been arranged with North East Sensory Services across all sites. This started in 2024 beginning with a gallery tour of the Meffan with a BSL interpreter in attendance.
- Take a significant leap forward from 2024 in our museums and galleries as we join the Bloomberg Connects app - this gives us access to multiple different forms of translation of our collections via the virtual app, and BSL will be one of these options. It is currently in its inception phase, so how we take this forward will need to be better understood from a service user's perspective and involvement.
- Work with the Scottish Government as they identify ways in which they can further support growth for BSL in the heritage, culture, and the arts sector, in line with the aims and ambitions of A Culture Strategy for Scotland.
- We will support and encourage BSL users to share BSL and deaf culture with others.

4.7 BSL Data

Our Actions

We fully support this new ambition by the Scottish Government to strengthen the evidence and data on the BSL community in Scotland which will better inform decision making in public policy and service design.

By 2030:

- We will work with the Scottish Government to map out existing sources of evidence available to understand the barriers to evidence gathering and try and attempt to close the specific and priority gaps in the current evidence base.
- We will work with the Scottish Government to learn what principles can be applied to BSL users that advance equality.

- We will work with the Scottish Government as they develop and implement a strategic plan for BSL data, building on existing information and research, to set out how to better understand the BSL community in Scotland relating to demographics and language use, as well as explore issues such as accessibility and access to services.

4.8 Transport

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

Members of the council-led Angus Disability Forum participated in consultation for the Arbroath Spaces For All initiative. Consultants attended several forum meetings over 2022/23 and forum members made many sensory suggestions, such as requesting consultants take cognisance of the problems with the lack of sound emanating from electric vehicles if crossing roads with a Guide Dog, along with cycles on cycle paths ways if they are shared with deaf people and those with other disabilities. Also raised were the problems at crossings for deaf people as many crossings have had the 'green man' removed, and there is only a noise alert to stop crossing, which is also at the wrong pitch for those with hearing impairments. Forum members were also invited to a walk around the Arbroath area involved with the consultants, and this took place. Both members of the forum and the consultants found the experience and their opportunity to input into this major initiative, invaluable.

Some members of the Disability Forum sit on the council's Transport Forum, having an input into the A New Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy and an Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24 as it developed. The Strategy is consistent with the policy context nationally, regionally, and locally, which highlights:

- Active and sustainable travel can make a big contribution to policy outcomes for health, the environment and social inclusion.
- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 promotes codesign and delivery. The Strategy notes that many projects are underway in Angus to promote active and sustainable travel outcomes, which are being led by a variety of public, private and third sector organisations.
- The Places for Everyone fund, which is administered by Sustrans, is to support the creation of infrastructure that makes it easier for people to walk and cycle for everyday journeys.

In respect of public transport, we have:

- Ensured that each bus stop timetable includes a QR code which can be scanned to provide realtime information for buses serving that stop.

- Realtime information signs installed at nearly 100 of our shelters at key locations such as town centres, as well as large education, healthcare and employment sites.
- Full timetable leaflets available on our dedicated public transport page on the Angus Council website. Translation of timetables into BSL is available on request.
- Ensured that there is a requirement, as part of bus drivers' ability to hold their licences, that they must undertake continued training - disability awareness training is included in this process.
- Ensured that Transport Scotland's Thistle Assistance Card has been adopted by all operators in Angus (and Tayside) and allows passengers to communicate any additional assistance they require from a driver by showing their card.
- Hearing impairment stickers placed on the drivers cab of each bus which allows passengers to point to the sticker, alerting the driver that they have a hearing impairment.

By 2030

We will:

- Continue to work with local partner agencies to assist in increasing accessibility to public transport.
- Investigate the potential with BSL users for some public transport information to be converted into BSL videos. We can develop this in conjunction with Stagecoach. A request has been made to BSL users to inform us regarding what information in BSL they would like us to help provide.
- Aim to have full real time information details at every bus stop in Angus (over 1,000).

4.9: Access to Justice

Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:

We support the Scottish Government's goal that BSL users will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems to enable everyone to exercise their human and civic rights, in order to live in a just and fair society.

By 2030:

- We will continue to work with local partner agencies such as the Procurator Fiscal's office to assist in improving access to support for BSL users.
- We will assist the Scottish Government in their aim of supporting public bodies within the justice sector to explore ways in which BSL support can be accessed more efficiently for frontline work and emergency response services.

4.10: Democratic Participation**Our Actions - What we have done, and what we will do by 2030:**

We support the Scottish Government's goal that BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, and as elected politicians.

By 2030

We will:

- Raise awareness of the 2022 Access to Elected Office Fund locally, which can meet the additional costs of BSL users wishing to stand for selection or election in local or Scottish Parliament elections.
- Facilitate BSL support in electoral campaigns and the election process to ensure BSL users can make informed decisions with access to all relevant information.
- Provide updated information in BSL on our website regarding registering to vote, and how to vote at polling stations.
- Work with the Scottish Government, where opportunities arise, to fulfil their ambition to identify existing barriers to support for BSL users within political settings, such as councillor or MSP, and consider ways in which gaps can be addressed.

SECTION 5

2.1 Name of lead officer if you wish to comment on this Plan, if you have any questions or wish to be involved in the development of actions contained within the Plan:

Doreen Phillips, Senior Practitioner (Equalities)

**Address: Angus Council, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar
DD8 1AN**

Email: Phillipsd@angus.gov.uk

BSL users can contact us via <https://contactscotland-bsl.org>

2.2 Where to find BSL Version of our Plan

[location to be added]