

# **British Sign Language (BSL)**

## **Draft National Plan 2017 – 2023**

**Tell us what you think of this plan**

**Easy Read**

**March 2017**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# INTRODUCTION

MARK McDONALD  
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SINCE 2011

LOOK THROUGH 'LANGUAGE LENS' NOT 'DISABILITY LENS'

BSL IN SCOTLAND  
END OF A JOURNEY  
START OF A JOURNEY

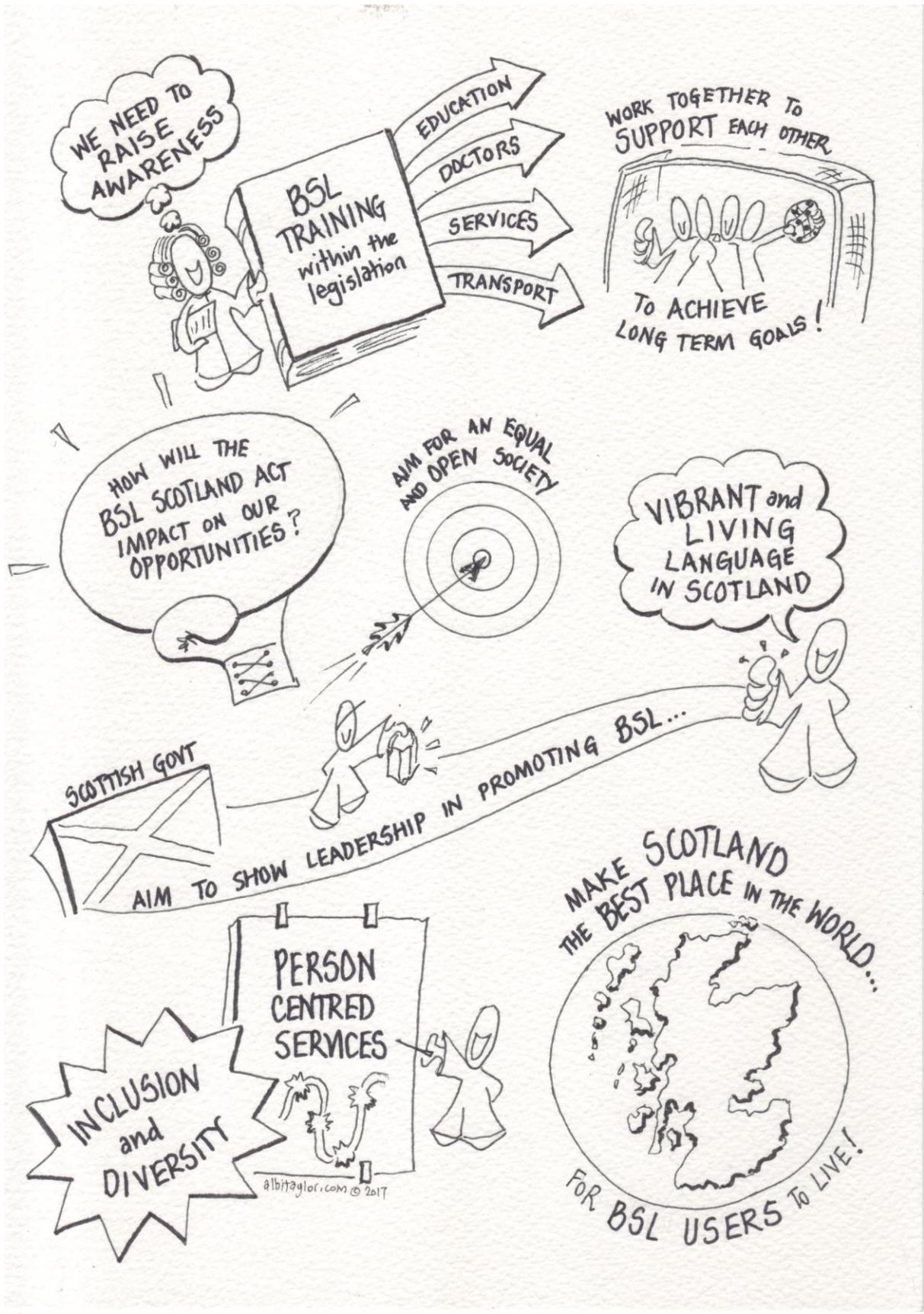
PROPERLY CONSIDER  
PROPERLY REPRESENT  
THE DEAF COMMUNITY  
CONTACT ME IF I CAN HELP!

I want the BSL community to feel listened to...  
I'll measure my role through this!

BE ACTIVE, HEALTHY CITIZENS.  
ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES

I THINK THE BSL SCOTLAND ACT IS VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION!  
ALL PARTIES ARE BEHIND IT

ENABLED TO MAKE A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO DAILY LIFE AND PUBLIC LIFE



# About this Survey



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

The Scottish Government and the Minister responsible for British Sign Language want to know what you think of this draft British Sign Language National Plan 2017 to 2023.



Throughout this document British Sign Language will be referred to as BSL.

BSL is a language. It is the language that Deaf and Deafblind people use in every day life.



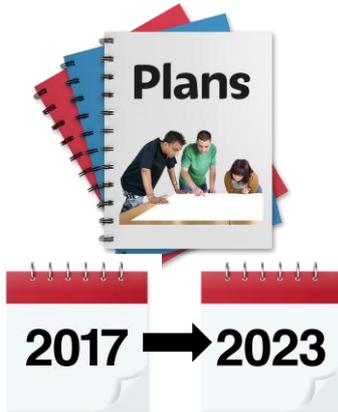
A group of people called the BSL National Advisory Group have been working together to help develop this Plan.



This Plan will set the rules for all national bodies in Scotland. This includes the Scottish Government.



A national body works with the Scottish Government to help the Government meet its aims.



The Plan has ten goals that the Scottish Government want to reach over a long time.

This Plan sets out what the goals are over the next six years, from 2017 to 2023.

Other Plans will be made for the future to meet all the goals the Scottish Government has in mind.



The Scottish Government want to know what you think about the goals they have set.

They want to know if you think they are the right goals and if you think the goals can be achieved.



There are some questions for you to answer.

The goals are set out in different sections. Please read each section and answer the questions at the end of each section.

Please answer them if you can

## How to tell us what you think



The closing date for this survey is 31 May 2017



### Online

To respond online, please use the Scottish Government's Consultation Hub, Citizen Space

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/bsl-national-plan>

### Respond in BSL

If you want to respond in BSL you can use the following options:



## Youtube or Vimeo

Upload your videos and paste the website link into the Citizen Space consultation or into an email



## Facebook

Post your videos on this public Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/bslnationalplan>

other people will see your responses



## Email

Send us an email with links to videos of your responses

[BSLConsult@gov.scot](mailto:BSLConsult@gov.scot)



## Post

Send your responses in English or in BSL on a DVD or USB to:

Hilary Third  
The Equality Unit  
Area 3H-North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

# PUBLIC SERVICES

ENCOURAGE BEST PRACTICE ACROSS SCOTLAND

SUBSTANTIAL TRAINING FOR ALL PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF

MAKE THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MORE ACCESSIBLE

AT STREET LEVEL

MAKE SYSTEMS MORE ACCESSIBLE

RAISE AWARENESS OF ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

BSL USED HERE

WE NEED MORE QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS IN SCOTLAND

LOOK AT NATIONAL PROCUREMENT OF BSL SERVICES

SUPPORT  
PUBLIC SERVICES  
TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR ALL

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# Goal One: Public Services

Information and services in the public sector will be accessible to all BSL users by 2023.



**Information**



**Training Room**

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

1. Write guidelines for all public services that will improve access to information services for all BSL users
2. Promote contact SCOTLAND-BSL. This is a Scottish Government service
3. Promote BSL awareness training for all public services staff
4. Review the BSL training and training regulation
5. Look at how BSL interpreters can complete specialist training
6. Make BSL easier to access for people who need it
7. Look at making public services BSL person centred



## Goal One: Public Services Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us  
about Public Services goals?

# EARLY YEARS

90% OF DEAF BABIES ARE BORN TO HEARING PARENTS

NEED QUALITY INFORMATION



RIGHT FROM BIRTH

DON'T FOCUS on the MEDICAL MODEL

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

REDUCE ISOLATION



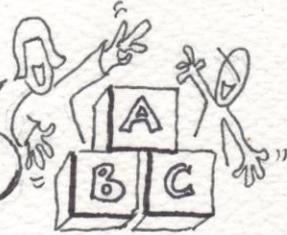
DEAF AND HEARING PARENTS ROUND THE SAME TABLE

PARENTS would APPRECIATE WELL-INFORMED DISCUSSIONS

A LIST OF OPTIONS  
GATHER INFORMATION FROM FAR AND WIDE



GIVE CHILDREN ACCESS TO THAT 'SOCIAL CONVERSATION'



BSL TRAINING FOR FAMILIES  
✓ ACCESSIBLE  
✓ CONSISTENT

TEACH SIBLINGS

TEACH FRIENDS

TEACH WIDER FAMILY



INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S CLUBS

SUPPORT

allthefogies.com © 2017

## Goal Two: Children in their Early Years



Families and carers of Deaf or Deafblind children will be given information about BSL and services for Deaf people. They will also be offered training in signing to children.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:



8. Make sure information is given about BSL and Deaf culture for new parents whose baby is diagnosed as deaf.

9. Promise to give support for families and carers with D/deaf and Deafblind children age 0-5 years old to learn BSL.



10. Make sure that families of D/deaf and Deafblind children have access to BSL support and information.

11. Make sure that all children can have happy play experiences.

12. Give information and access to early years services for parents who use BSL.



13. Look at the best ways of bringing together children who use BSL.

## Goal Two: Children in their Early Years

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No

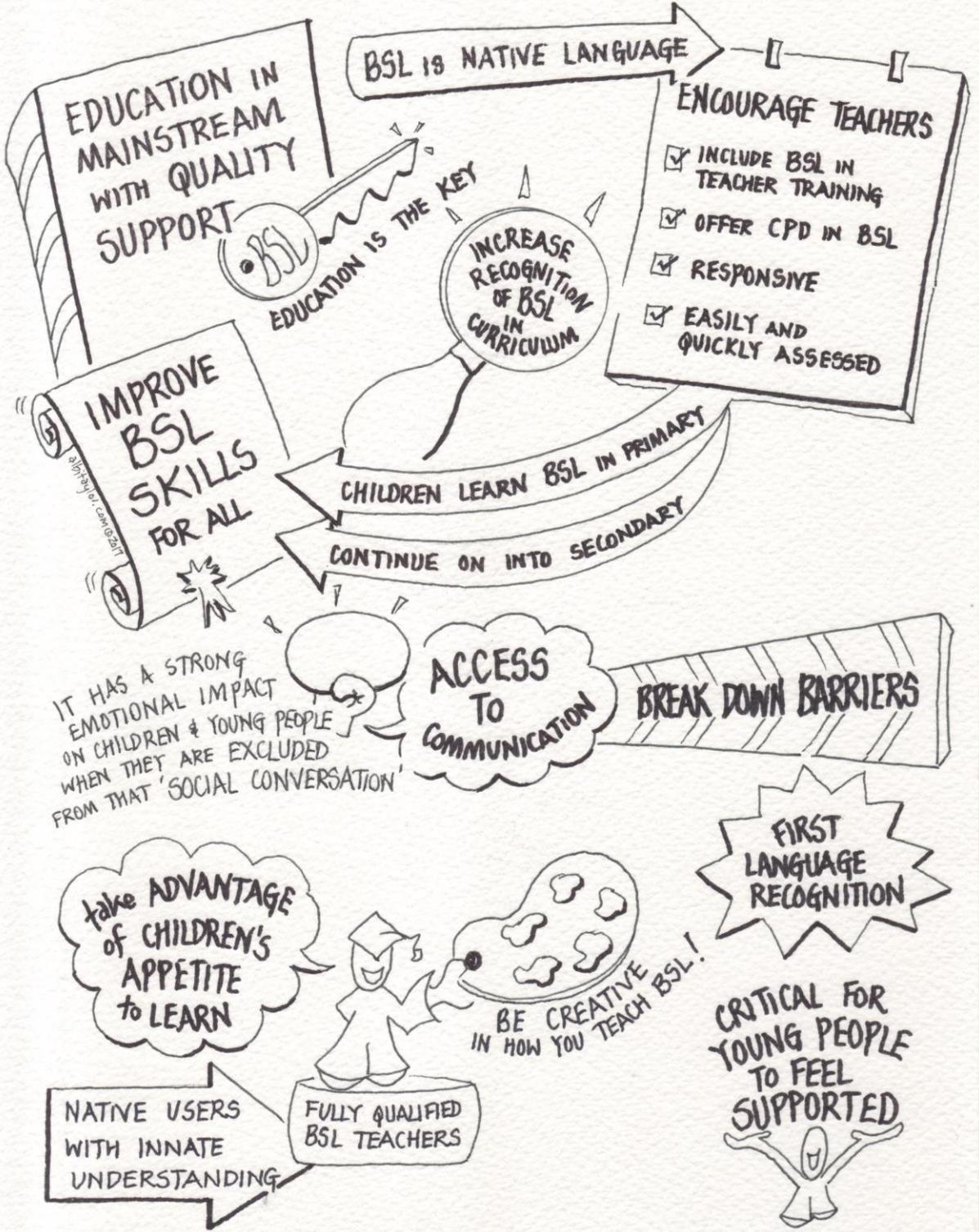


Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Children in their Early Years goals?

# EDUCATION



## Goal Three: Education

Children and young people who use BSL will reach their full potential at school.



Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

14. Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to remove barriers for BSL users who want to register as a teacher



15. Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to update guidance and BSL qualifications

16. Work with Scottish Qualifications Authority on a potential SQA Award in BSL



17. Make sure schools and councils have up to date BSL guidance and training materials.



Parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities to be involved with their children's education as all other parents

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:



18. Make sure guidance is given to schools and councils to consider the needs of parents who use BSL

19. Look at how parents who use BSL can be more involved with their childrens' schools.

That BSL will could be offered to children at school as a language.



Scottish Ministers will reach this goal by:

20. Telling schools that they can offer BSL as a language

21. Find out which schools offer BSL as a language each year



**Policy**

22. Teachers of BSL will share knowledge of teaching methods. Teachers will have written guidance on teaching BSL.

## Goal Three: Education

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No

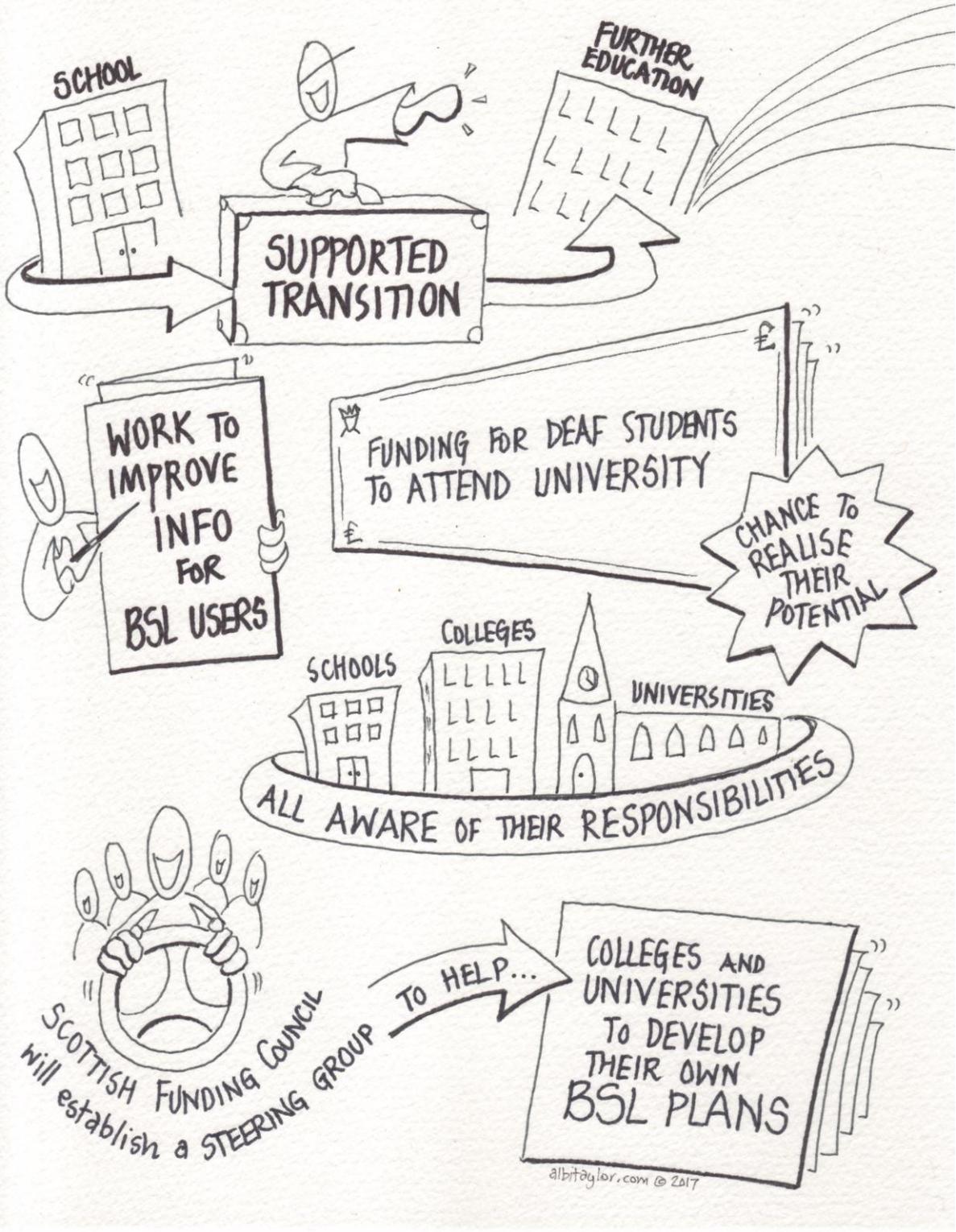


Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Education goals?

# POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION



## Goal Four: School Leavers



Young people who use BSL, who leave school, will be supported if they want to go to college or university or if they want to get a job.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:



23. Making sure colleges or universities or employers know how to include a BSL user. BSL users will get better information to help them move from school to higher education or work.



24. The Scottish Funding Council will work with colleges and universities to form their own BSL Plans.

## Goal Four: School Leavers

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about School Leavers goals?

## Goal Five: Employment

BSL users will have the same access to work opportunities as everyone else.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:



25. Making sure BSL users have the same access to employment schemes as everyone else



26. From April 2018, start a new Scottish employability programme. The programme will support BSL users to find work and stay in work.

BSL users will get help and support so they can stay in work and get promoted if that is the job they want to do

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:



27. BSL users can use the Scottish Government support service for a year after they start their job.

28. Staff who work in employment services will work with specialist employment support staff to tackle barriers BSL users face in the workplace.



29. We will promote the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Access to Work (ATW) to employers and BSL users.

## Goal Five: Employment

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No

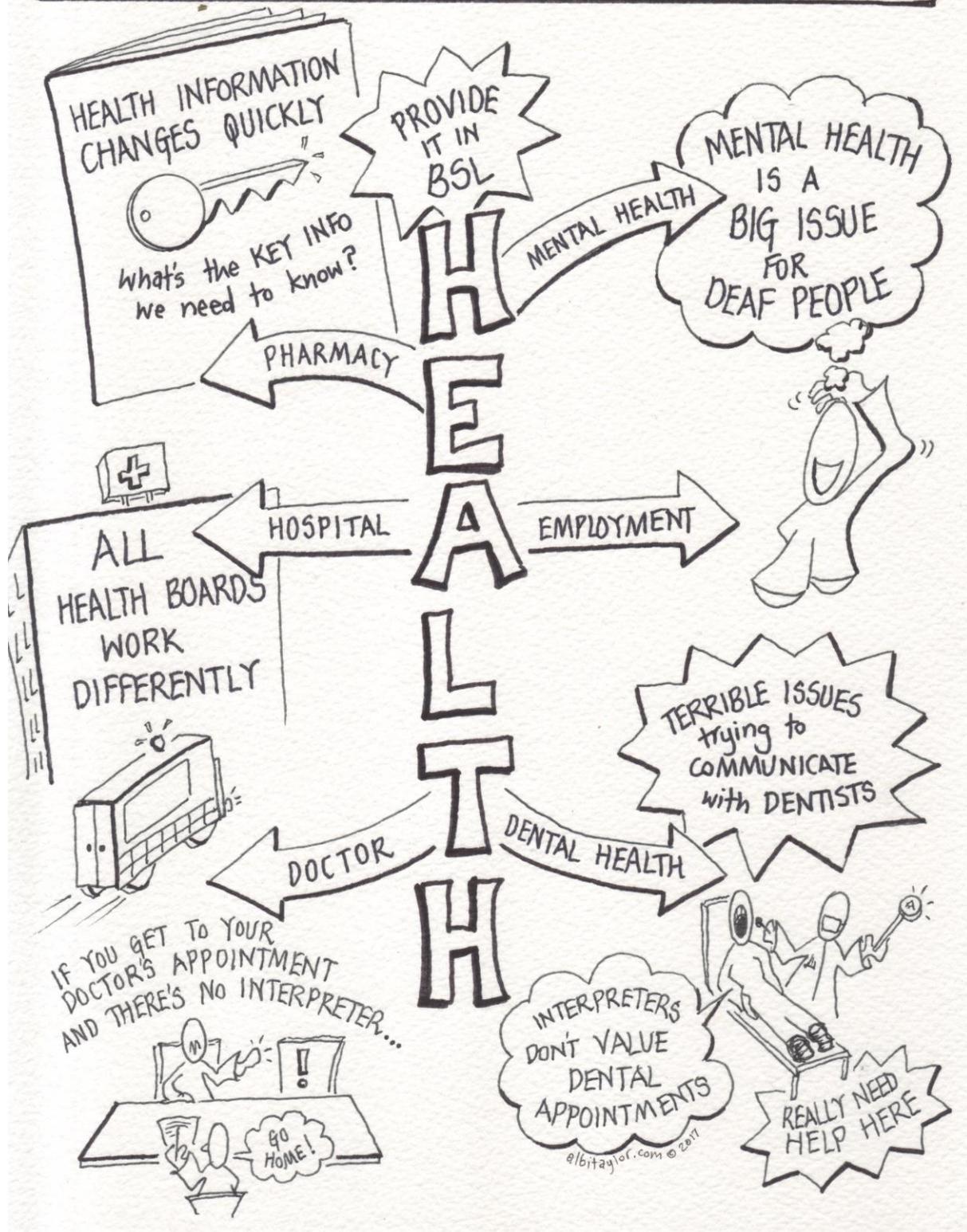


Please tell us why?



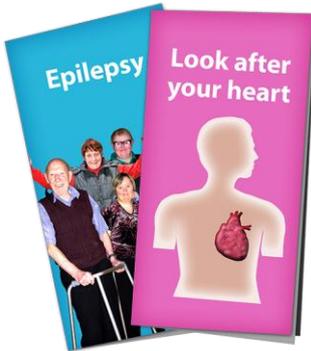
Is there anything else you want to tell us about Employment goals?

# HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH + SOCIAL CARE



## Goal Six: Health and Mental Health and Social Care

BSL users will have access to information they need to live as healthy and active a life as they want to. They will also be able to make informed decisions that affect their lives.



Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

30. Making sure information on immunisations and health checks are always available in BSL.



31. Make sure that professional health information that is online is available in BSL.

32. Make sure all health and social care staff receive training in BSL awareness.



33. BSL users' health records should say clearly that the patient's first language is BSL.

34. Make sure that information on self directed support is available in BSL.

35. Make sure that information on mental health is available in BSL.

# Goal Six: Health and Mental Health and Social Care

## Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No

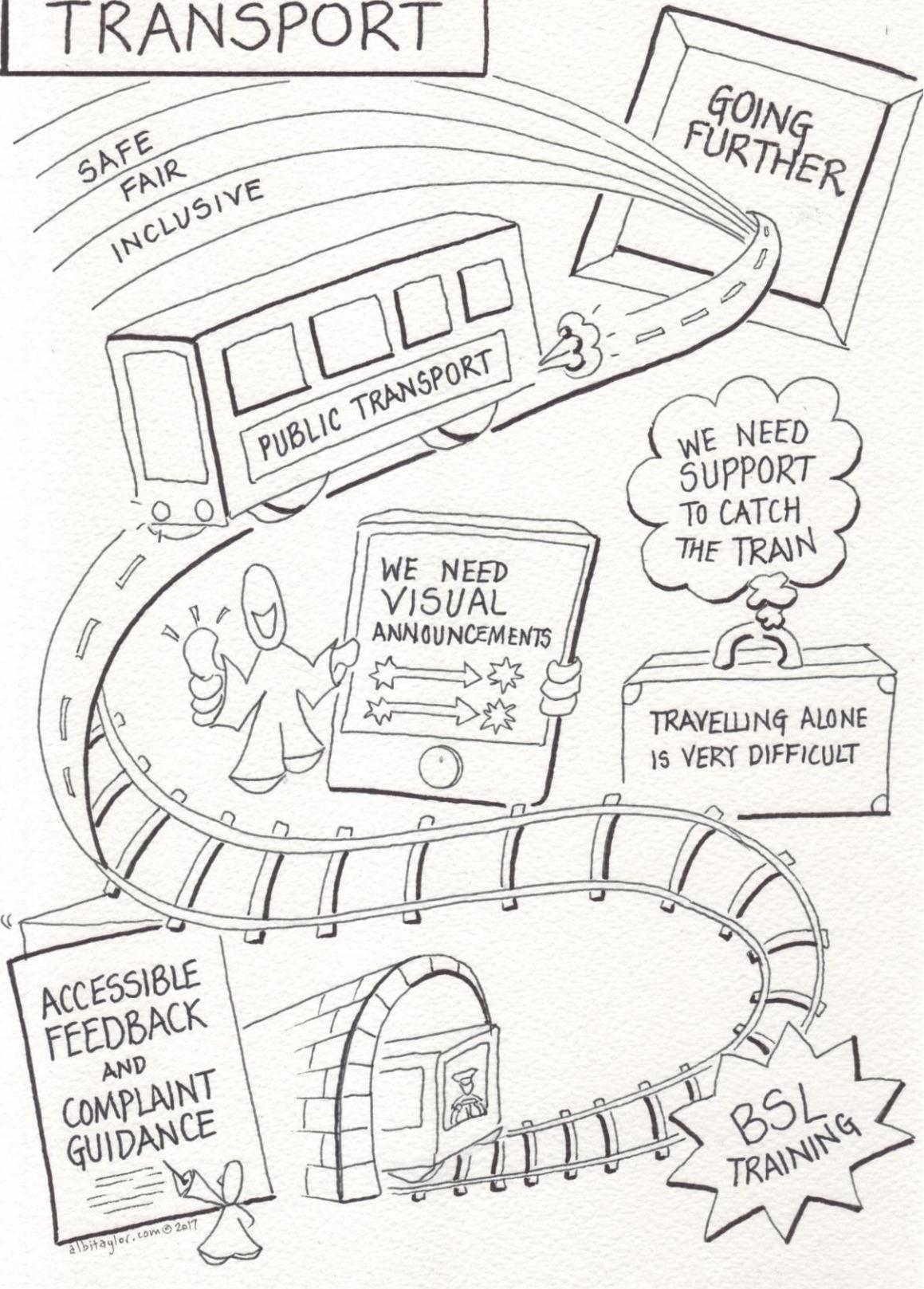


Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Health and Mental Health and Social Care goals?

# TRANSPORT



## Goal Seven: Transport



BSL users will have safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport and the systems that support all transport use in Scotland

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:



36. Ensuring that transport users, including BSL users, can participate in the on-going feedback process of the Accessible Travel Framework.



37. Research technical solutions for providing accessible information in transport hubs (like train stations, airports etc.)

38. Creating guidance on how to contact transport providers when things go wrong on a journey.



39. Developing training for transport providers which includes strategies for communicating with BSL users.

# Goal Seven: Transport

## Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Transport goals?

# CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORTS + THE ARTS



## Goal Eight: Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts

BSL users will enjoy fair and inclusive access to Scotland's culture, leisure pursuits, sport and the arts and will have every opportunity to share their own Deaf culture with the people of Scotland.



Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

40. Encouraging BSL users to take part in the culture, leisure, sport and the arts

41. Supporting BSL users to consider culture, leisure, sport or the arts as a career choice

42. Encouraging BSL to be used in performing arts and film.

43. Working with the bodies delivering culture, leisure, sport and the arts to make sure that websites are easy to access and inclusive for BSL users.

44. Increasing the number of public events and arts programmes that have BSL interpretation.





45. Working with Historic Environment Scotland to introduce BSL tours in historic buildings to improve access for BSL users.



46. Working to make sure that everyone can access and take part in Scotland's culture.



**Communicate**



47. Working with sportscotland to provide information on their website about good practice when working with BSL users and increasing awareness and understanding about BSL.

## Goal Eight: Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts goals?

# JUSTICE

ENABLE INTERACTION WITH POLICE TO BE MORE IMMEDIATE

SPECIALISED TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING

RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME

PLAN OF IMPROVEMENTS

GUIDANCE  
• JUVENILE  
• CRIMINAL  
• CIVIL

RESOURCES

IMPROVE OUR RESPONSE



ROLL OUT PLOD ACROSS SCOTLAND

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SYSTEM



## Goal Nine: Justice

BSL users will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems in Scotland.



Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

48. Assessing how the justice system could better meet the needs of BSL users and carry out a plan of improvements.



49. Researching technology to improve BSL user access to our Justice systems.



50. Making sure information is available to BSL users to help them understand the justice sector.

# Goal Nine: Justice

## Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Justice goals?

# DEMOCRACY

PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT



BSL USERS...



EMPOWERED AND FACILITATED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND

LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

ACCESSING DEMOCRACY

MORE BSL PROMOTION

INVOLVE AND INFORM

2014  
A LOT MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE SINCE THE INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM



SERVE ON PUBLIC BOARDS

ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL ARENA

SNP CONSERVATIVE GREEN  
LABOUR LIB DEM  
ALL PARTY MANIFESTOS ACCESSIBLE TO BSL USERS

BSL interpreters on LIVE POLITICAL DEBATES



@bitaylor.com © 2011

## Goal Ten: Democracy



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

BSL users should be able to represent the people of Scotland as elected politicians at national and local level, and to serve on boards of our public bodies.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:



51. Reporting on the Access to Elected Office fund to find out if this meets the needs of BSL users.

52. Offering advice and support to BSL users about how to take part in politics.

53. We will raise awareness of public appointments as a way to take part in public life.

BSL users should have full access to information about democracy, including voting.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:



54. Providing better information about voting in BSL and reviewing if it has been effective.

55. We will encourage political parties to produce election information in BSL.

## Goal Ten: Democracy

### Questions



Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes

No



Please tell us why?



Is there anything else you want to tell us about Justice goals?



## List of Policies and Services used in this plan and what they mean



### 1+2 language learning policy

Scottish Government policy which enables children to learn two languages in addition to the language used at home.

### contactSCOTLAND-BSL



This is the service which the Scottish Government has established to connect deaf BSL users throughout Scotland through a video relay service (VRS) with all of Scotland's public authorities and voluntary organisations (Third Sector).

### Department for Work and Pensions' Access to Work (ATW)



An Access to Work grant can pay for practical support if you have a disability, health or mental health condition. This is offered by the UK Government.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview>

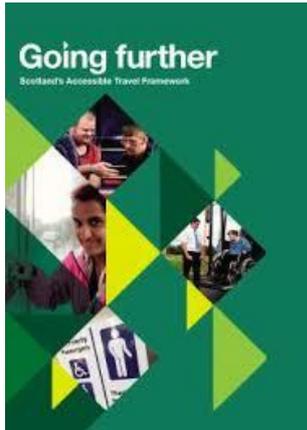


## **Family Information Service website**

This website provides free, impartial information for families.

Website:

<https://www.scottishfamilies.gov.uk/>



## **Going Further: Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework**

This is the Scottish Government's plan for transport services. This was coproduced with disabled people, including BSL users.

Website:

<http://accessibletravel.scot/accessible-travel/>



## **General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)**

This organisation promotes, supports and develops the professional learning of teachers.

Website: <http://www.gtcs.org.uk/>



## **Historical Environment Scotland**

This is the lead public body set up to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.

Website:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>



## Play Strategy

This is the Scottish Government's [Play Strategy for Scotland](#). The definition for Play tells us that “key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity. Play can happen indoors or outdoors, with or without the oversight of adults, in everyday spaces, in environments designed for play and places chosen by children and young people.”

Website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00437132.pdf>



## Self-directed Support

This is a service for people who use social care services and health and social care professionals.

Website:

<http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/>



## Scottish Funding Council

This is the non-departmental public body charged with funding Scotland's further and higher education institutions.

Website:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/Priorities/Priorities.aspx>



## **Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)**

Has two main functions: accreditation, and awarding qualifications

Website:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>

## **sportscotland**



This is the national agency for sport in Scotland. We see a Scotland where sport is a way of life, where sport is at the heart of society, making a positive impact on people and communities.

Website: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/>

## **The Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland**



This has been set up to offer financial assistance to disabled people who are seeking selection or have already been selected to stand in the 2017 Scottish Local Authority Elections.

Website:

<http://inclusionscotland.org/information/employment-and-civic-participation/access-to-politics/aeofs/>



## List of words used in this plan and what they mean



### The Arts

Examples of the arts are literature, performing arts and theatre, music, dance and photography.



### deaf

This word is used to refer to people who are unable to hear



Deaf

### Deaf

This word is used to refer to people who identify as being part of a linguistic and cultural minority who use British Sign Language



### Deafblind

This is the term used to refer to people who are both Deaf and have sight loss



### BSL 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



## **Long-term goals**

These goals represent our collective dream for BSL in Scotland and will take more than the lifetime of this BSL National Plan.



## **Justice System**

The justice system is the terminology commonly used to encompass the civil, criminal and juvenile systems- and organisation's include: Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and Scotland Children's Reporter Administration.



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