

## Appendix A – Useful Resources – Accompanying document to Top Tips for Engaging with Deaf People to Achieve Health Equity

### An Explanation of Different Communication Professionals

**BSL interpreters** will translate between spoken English and BSL.

BSL/English interpreters are used by deaf people who use BSL as their first or preferred language, and by hearing people who are unable to communicate in BSL.

It is important to remember that the interpreter is there to communicate for both parties and is not only booked “for the deaf person”. The hearing person is just as reliant on the interpreter being present. This is why we use the term ‘BSL/English interpreter’.

A Registered **Sign Language Translator** (RSLT) is a Deaf Interpreter who translates from written text/English into BSL. Deaf Interpreters are native, first language BSL users. They are able to produce sign language in a way that is easily understood by Deaf BSL users.

The **Relay (Intralingual) interpreter** will work using British Sign Language between the hearing British Sign Language/English Interpreter and the Deaf client, to support the Deaf client’s understanding of the message being communicated from the hearing client and to relay what the Deaf person is saying back to the hearing interpreter and finally the hearing client. They usually work with Deaf people who have additional needs e.g. someone with learning disabilities, mental health issues or uses a foreign language.

**Deafblind interpreters** who use manual communication or ‘hands-on’ methods to support deafblind individuals.

**Speech to Text Reporters** who are also called palantypists, they type a verbatim, word-for-word account of spoken language using a phonetic keyboard, displayed on a screen in real time.

**Notetakers** who type a summary of what is being said in a meeting or lecture, for the user to refer to later.

A **lipspeaker** is a hearing person who has been professionally trained to be easy to lipread. They will usually sit directly opposite the deaf, deafened or hard of hearing person, clearly repeating (silently) what the speaker is saying. The Lipspeaker will make sure that the speaker is being understood and will pass on the information in its entirety. They may use some fingerspelling to initialise difficult words or acronyms.



### **Links to Communication Professionals Websites**

- [Regulatory Body and Register of professionals](#)
- [Notetakers](#)
- [Lipspeakers](#)
- [Deafblind](#)

### **East Midlands Deaf Organisations**

- [Nottinghamshire Deaf Society](#)
- [Derbyshire Communication Unlimited](#)
- [Leicestershire Action Deafness](#)
- [Northamptonshire](#)

### **National Deaf Organisations**

- [British Deaf Association](#)
- [RNID](#)

[Recently published report from Government Office for Equality and Opportunity on exclusion of Deaf and Deafblind BSL users from health and social care in the UK](#)