

Carers for Deaf People Forum

Information leaflet



Who we are

We are mothers, fathers, partners, family members and friends of deaf people.

We understand that there are about 70,000 deaf people who are profoundly deaf and using British Sign Language in the UK. 2,000 of them live in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

Some deaf people have more complex needs such as mental ill health, physical and intellectual disabilities, and/or autistic spectrum disorder. As a result, we often feel we are the only people they have to speak up for them.

Our experience of care for deaf people with complex health and social needs is unique and not always shared by other carers, families and friends. This can put us in a more isolated position.

We have taken up many different roles from the time our deaf loved one was born. We are often their communicator, advocate, teacher, guide, and many other roles.

What we do

The group is open to all carers, families and friends of deaf people regardless of their age or background.

Everyone is welcome to the group whether the people cared for are young or older, signing or using speech, if they are known to health and social care or not.

We aim to provide a supportive environment for sharing stories of our unique journeys.

We understand that our experience and roles are different and value and respect each other in the group.

We encourage each other to be engaged in service development and use our experience to influence services to become deaf friendly, accessible and appropriate.

Some of us have been involved in teaching and training for health and social care staff.

How we support each other

We view our health and wellbeing as important as those we care for.

We meet once a month at the Involvement Centre at Rosewood (New Ollerton), usually on a third Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm.

We keep in touch with each other between meetings and signpost ourselves to other support groups and venues where possible.

We listen to each other in a friendly, respectful and relaxed way.

We provide each other with tips and advice as we know that health and social care systems and treatment are not easily understood and are changing all the time.

We organise social activities for ourselves when we can.

Our stories

We are 'mothers', 'fathers', 'coach drivers', 'husbands', 'wives', 'partners', 'grandparents' 'daughters' and 'sons'.

'It seemed normal to take care of my deaf parents. I now realise some aspects of care maybe more than expected of a child.' (A young carer)

'I come second, they come first always.'

'We (the group) are all different and are brought together by the ones we love.'

'Caring has an impact - it affects me, the whole family, not just the person.'

'It's good there are carers groups to go to so I don't feel isolated or alone anymore'

'I missed the football to go to monthly carers meetings! That's how much I value them.'

'Coming to carer groups helps me feel closer to them; I can share my experiences with people who understand me.'

'I started signing before I could talk.' (A young carer)

Useful contacts and networks

AMH City Carers Support Services – Tel 0115 9691300

Carers Federation – Tel 0115 9629310

Looking after me programme – Tel 01623 673302

Deaf Carers resource pack c/o Royal Association for the Deaf (RAD)
Tel 0845 688 2525

Community of Interest – Carers, Families and Friends. Executive Sponsor: Dean Howells. Contact: Rob Gardiner 0115 962 9310 (Carers Federation) r.gardiner@carersfederation.co.uk

Adult Mental Health (AMH) Family Intervention Services, contact Andrea Emmens—Tel 0190 950 2025

Targeted Support Team (Nottingham City Council) – Tel 0115 915 5555 (Switchboard)

Targeted Family Support Team (Nottinghamshire County Council) – Tel 0300 500 8080

Nottinghamshire Deaf Society – Tel 0115 970 0516

Nottinghamshire Sign Language Interpreting Services – Tel 0115 978 6984

Intensive Rehabilitation Programme (Hearing Link) for deaf people and their families – Tel 0300 111 1113

AMH Deaf Services – Tel 0115 955 5446

Involvement Centres: Nottingham - 0115 993 4567, Rosewood (New Ollerton) - 0115 956 0845



Contacts for further information

Mick Boulton: Tel 07913 232656

Emmanuel Chan/Lucy Gilbert:

Adult Mental Health Deaf Services

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

C/o Stonebridge Centre, Cardiff Street, Carlton Road,

Nottingham, NG3 2FH

Tel: 0115 9535446

Fax: 0115 9859894

SMS: 07880500989

Email: AMH-deafservices@nottshc.nhs.uk

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request.

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.

Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d'autres langues et formats.

Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

यह दस्तावेज़ अनुरोध किए जाने पर अन्य भाषाओं और प्रारूपों में उपलब्ध है।

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

در صورت درخواست این سند به زبانها و شکلهای مختلف در اختیار شما قرار می گیرد.

یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں اور مطلوبہ شکلوں (فارمیٹ) میں بھی دستیاب ہے

مذہ الوثيقة متاحة بلغات اخرى وباشكال غير الكتابة المقروءة وذلك عند الطلب