

Working with a LSP - Deafblind Manual

Users

There are several methods of communication commonly used by deafblind people. The method used by a particular deafblind person will be determined by several factors including age at the onset of deafness and visual impairment, and the order in which they occurred. For example, a person born deaf whose first language was British Sign Language (BSL) and who later becomes blind may use hands on sign language and require a BSL/English interpreter skilled in this technique. A blind person who later becomes deaf may use the deafblind manual alphabet. Some users of deafblind manual will be capable of (and in some settings, will expect to) receive the manual at speed.

Role of LSP - Deafblind Manual

A LSP – Deafblind Manual relays a speaker’s message, working at speeds of up to 150wpm, onto the hand of the deafblind person using the Deafblind Manual alphabet. The LSP – Deafblind Manual will also relay visual and other non-verbal information, for example reactions to what has been said, movement of other people and what they are doing.

How to book a LSP - Deafblind Manual

Some LSPs – Deafblind Manual are booked up for several weeks so it is important to book well in advance. LSPs – Deafblind Manual can be found by searching the registers on the NRCDP website www.nrcpd.org.uk or they may be booked through one of the specialist organisations for deafblind people or through agencies.

Before the meeting

- Inform the LSP – Deafblind Manual of the type of assignment and details of the date, time, length and location
- Make sure the LSP – Deafblind Manual has a contact name and telephone number
- Where the LSP – Deafblind Manual and/or the deafblind user do not know each other, arrange for them to meet at the venue before the assignment begins
- Ensure that the LSP – Deafblind Manual receives details of the assignment and/or copies of relevant papers at least a week before the assignment
- It is essential that the LSP – Deafblind Manual is suitably qualified and experienced for the assignment. Before booking a LSP – Deafblind Manual it is important to consult the deafblind person as to the kind of communication service they require

Position of the LSP – Deafblind Manual

Because use of deafblind manual requires hand to hand contact, the deafblind user and the LSP – Deafblind Manual will need to be seated comfortably, side by side. Some LSPs – Deafblind Manual may prefer a chair without arms and if they need to refer to papers whilst working, a table at an appropriate height will be required.

During the meeting

- Only one message can be conveyed at a time so it is important that participants at meetings speak one at a time
- Using the deafblind manual can be physically and mentally tiring for both the LSP – Deafblind Manual and the user. Regular breaks will be needed. For assignments of more than two hours it may be necessary to book two LSPs – Deafblind Manual
- A LSP – Deafblind Manual should not be expected to work for more than 20 minutes at a time without a break or the quality of the communication support may suffer