

CfD (Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People)

Community Hub project

Funded by Bristol City Council: One City Funding – Community Hubs Grants

Background:

Over the past 2 years, CfD has transformed from an organisation that struggled to engage with the community it represented, to a vibrant Community Hub that supports grass-roots activities and attracts ever-increasing numbers of deaf people to events. This is a significant shift in our engagement, but our information capacity is under-developed.

Aim:

To strengthen our role as a Community Hub: Supporting deaf people to develop CfD's capacity to produce and share relevant community information from across Bristol.

What we will do:

We will build on recent community work, in particular, on the relationships we have developed with Community Centres in Bristol. CfD aims to offer deaf people more choice in their lives by:

- 1) Developing CfD as an information hub. Information will be fully accessible to both Deaf people whose preferred language is BSL, and to hard of hearing people who do not use sign language but still require support with communication. As we work with deaf people across Bristol, we cannot rely exclusively on information being delivered face-to-face. We will reach and support more deaf people by developing a virtual information hub, using our website, social media, apps and newsletters for visual communication.
 - We will run workshops for deaf people to develop their skills with using video-technology to produce accessible information and to writing accessible content.
 - A Communication and Engagement Officer will support deaf people to produce their own newsletters, using BSL and subtitles.
 - The eventual aim will be to have a regular newsletter that is produced and managed by deaf people, and a CfD "newsround": a regular video round-up of events, news and information.

- 2) Supporting Community Hubs to reach out to deaf people in their neighbourhoods and to increase their understanding of how to include deaf people in their activities.
 - In Year 1, we will work with 4 Hubs across Bristol to engage with deaf people. Our increased capacity to provide information will enable us to reach more deaf people local to these Hubs. We will start by holding deaf-focused events at each Hub, involving their staff in the organisation and delivery with a collaborative, hands-on approach.
 - In Year 2, we will explore how deaf people can be supported to continue attending Hubs. The approach to this will depend on the hub and the deaf people involved. We will explore different models of engagement e.g. Hubs offering activities targeted at deaf people; individuals supported to attend general activities. We will offer a minimum of 6 events targeted at deaf people, using topics that will attract deaf people.