

## Transcript – Deaf in the Covid Aftermath

HELLO! Surprised to see me? Are you well?

HI! It's been such a long time stuck at home because of COVID...and then there were the masks and Deaf clubs closed down! Are you okay?

Yeah...it's been the same for me, home a lot. I caught COVID last year, it was bad. I was sick for three weeks and then my wife caught it after me. She got is worse than me and had to stay in the hospital for two weeks! She's still not right and it's been 10 months!

We've been lucky. Both our son and daughter are married, and they caught it, but both of them are hearing and so as a family it's been easier for them to access the information.

Yes it's easy for hearing people. Two of my Deaf friends were sent to hospital with COVID, and they died! One of their wives couldn't even visit them. She was so upset.

That's awful. I think it's better now...maybe...but where can Deaf people meet up? Most are just sat at home, isolated...they can use zoom...and that helps a bit.

Deaf club is open now but very few people are going. Transport is difficult.

I think it's a lot worse for older people...but also its difficult for younger people too.

It's like going back to the 1800's! It's difficult! Are our needs any different?

Well...we're a lot older now as a community, I'm not sure. Maybe we need a survey. We need to ask all Deaf people what happened to them during COVID? What do we need now? I think it's best to ask people.

You're right! Exactly. We've got money for a new piece of work. So we can undertake some research into what happened to the Deaf Community through COVID. We can also ask, what next? What about our older community? Also of a greater concern, how has it affected our younger members?

Interesting. When can this research start?

It can start now and over a period of a year. We'll use Deaf interviewers using BSL to ask the questions, 'What happened over COVID? And what should happen now?'

Yes, I remember being involved in research before. I was asked about my hobbies, my job, how I met up with people, sports I was involved with. Yes, I remember.

Yes. We need to find Deaf people of all backgrounds, balancing numbers of men and women, people working and people not working, different levels, different cultures, black, Asian and white people. We really want to focus particularly on younger people, aged 20-30 years old.

Yes, right. Where are they? Youth Clubs are gone. Most of them are in mainstream schools. Are they using BSL there? I'm not even sure. How many people are you looking to contact? Are you interviewing all across the UK?

Well, altogether we are hoping to find 120 people between the ages of 20 and 90 years old. The research will be done from populations in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

When will you have the results?

We have the results in early 2024. But the planning the future starts now. We must get the Deaf Community back. We must get that pride back and we need to support each other, it's important.

I totally agree. I'm definitely interested in taking part and happy to help.

Yes. We'll create a video and send it to all the community and then we'll choose people to take part. They'll be paid expenses for meeting us or attending on zoom.

Well, you can interview me a few times and then I'll get extra pay, right?

Ah! (laugh) maybe! At the end of the research, we'll have a conference and we'll open it up to everyone to see the results. We will also produce a report with details on it, tables and graphs and we will reach some conclusions.

Really interesting! I can't wait to see that.

Thanks, keep well. Stay safe.

You too, bye.

Bye!