

"For deaf people, with deaf people, by deaf people."

DEAFvibe

Deafness = Equality & Access = Fairness STAFFORDSHIRE

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Dates for your Diary

Every Monday – Football Training at Port Vale 7.30pm – 9pm.

11th July – NHS Consultation on Mental Health Services, Hanley Fire Station 1-2pm.

14th July – **DEAFvibe Café** Gill Winstanley talking about the Equality Act and what it can do for Deaf and HOH people.

3rd August – **DEAFvibe HUB**

11th August – **DEAFvibe Café** – Steve Wynne –BSL Broadcasting Trust (**morning**). Nicki Holliday – Hearing Loss and Assistive Technology: taking part in research and having your say. (**Both morning and afternoon cafes**).

MIDSUMMER MAYHEM HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER DUE TO RAIN.

DEAFvibe HUB Opens

Great news! DEAFvibe's latest project officially begins on 3rd August thanks to funding from Staffordshire Peer to Peer Support.

The DEAFvibe HUB is a drop-in centre, the first of its type in Staffordshire, where deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing people can pop in for advice and information on managing their hearing loss.

For friendly advice on communication tactics or the chance to try out communication aids and alerting equipment, do pop in and see us.

We will be based at Newcastle Civic Offices, Merrial St, Newcastle between 10am to 3pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month.

The first two dates are 3rd and 17th August.

Come along and try out the equipment from phones to alarms and alerters – you may find something that can change your life!



LOTTERY FUNDED

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DEAFvibe Walkers raise money for DEAFvibe

A team of walkers from DEAFvibe successfully completed the 6 Summits challenge and raised over £1400 for DEAFvibe so far. Well done to all who completed the gruelling 36 mile course over 6 summits along the Shropshire Way and many thanks to all who supported them. Funds raised will be used to pay for speakers and interpreters for your monthly café.

Research Shows Deaf People More Likely To Have Mental Health Issues

Recent research by Dr Johannes Fellingner of Health Centre for the Deaf, Linz, Austria shows deaf people are twice as likely to have mental health problems than the general population. The research shows that deaf children who struggle to communicate in the family home are more likely to be affected by mental health disorders and also are more likely to be a target for bullying and sexual abuse outside of the home.

This is made worse by limitations in access to healthcare information due to a number of reasons such as poor communication between health care professionals and deaf patients, lack of accessible information or lack of understanding of a deaf person's needs by the healthcare professional. The review stressed the importance of access to appropriate communication within a healthcare setting in order to ensure the continued wellbeing of deaf patients.

If you are experiencing mental distress or feeling low and isolated, speak to your doctor or a trusted friend about how you are feeling and don't suffer in silence. If you need a BSL interpreter or a Lipspeaker at your doctor's appointment, make sure you ask them to book one for you. You can ask for a referral to specialist counselors who can use BSL and have deaf awareness.

Daily Devotions in BSL

After successfully beating colon cancer, which encouraged him to turn to prayer and God, Ramon Woolfe has set up the website BSL Daily Devotions in order to share bible readings in BSL with deaf and hard of hearing Christians and non-Christians alike. The readings are translated from an ASL website run by the American Deaf Missions. The website address is: www.bsldailydevotions.co.uk

Learn BSL at dDeaflinks

A new term of British Sign Language courses taught by Jennifer Brown starts at dDeaflinks, Wellesley St, Shelton from 17th September 2012. With courses from ABC Introduction to BSL right through to Introduction to BSL Level 3, there is something for all levels of ability. Introduction to BSL classes are free as long as you are over 19 years of age, thanks to funding from Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Sign Loop – Deaf Access Centre in Walsall

Sign Loop is a service based at Walsall Independent Living Centre where deaf and hard of hearing people can get assistance with making phone calls to book appointments or translating letters and forms into BSL. The service is from 9am to 12.30pm every Thursday.

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