

FAILT ERRIU / WELCOME



Manx Deaf Society

Manninagh Bouyr Sheshaght



Deafway
SERVICES FROM A CULTURE

A LIFE LESS EQUAL?



Manx Deaf Society
Manninagh Bouyr Sheshaght



Deafway
SERVICES FROM A CULTURE

Presentation Overview

- What is the report about?
- How was the evidence gathered?
- The impact of deafness on literacy.
- What were the findings?
- HRA, Equality Bill, UNCRPD
- What next?



What is the report about?

- *....to acquire as clear a picture as possible of the current situation of deaf people living on the Isle of Man.*
- *....whether they enjoy the same quality of life as hearing people.....*
- Deaf adults who are profoundly, pre-lingually deaf plus those who attended a school for deaf children or other specialist education
- 25 deaf people ranging from 18 to 86 years plus 14 of their hearing relatives

Who did the research?

- The Manx Deaf Society commissioned Deafway, a UK based voluntary organisation
- The research took place in March 2011
- The findings were published in a report called ‘A Life Less Equal?’ and launched at Tynwald in April 2013



How was the evidence gathered ?

- Face to face interviews
- Minimal language skills of some interviewees
- Illiteracy problems

Impact of profound prelingual deafness on literacy

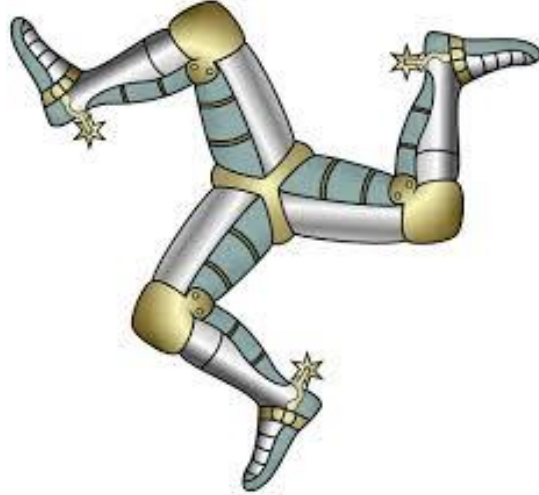
Eyesolayshun

Konfewshun



Deafness and literacy

Λεγσ οφ Μαν



Λεγσ οφ Μαν

What were the findings?

A selection of quotations from those interviewed:

'I was in hospital for an operation. I asked the staff 'when can I go home?' - they misunderstood me and thought that I was refusing further treatment – so they sent me home. It was a horrific situation.'



‘When I was pregnant – I needed full access to information, but didn’t get it. When I was actually giving birth I was trying to write things down at the same time in order to communicate! I really needed an interpreter.’



‘I was arrested by the police. There was no understanding of my communication needs. I had no idea what was happening. I could not communicate with them and they could not communicate with me.’



‘She was in a car accident. She was panicking and didn’t know what to do. The police rang me to go out to her. When it went to court the judge told her to step out of the box and go closer so she could lipread. She could not understand.’



The impact of the Human Rights Act on deaf people

Article 5: The Right to Liberty

2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.

Article 6: Right to a Fair Trial

3(e) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

Disability Discrimination Act 2006, reasonable adjustments duty

Duty of providers of services to make adjustments –

(4) Where an auxiliary aid or service (for example, the provision of information or audio tape or sign language interpreter)

Would –

(b) facilitate the use by disabled persons of such a service.

Equality Bill 2015

21 Duty to make adjustments

(5) ...where a disabled person would, but for the provision of an auxiliary aid, be put at a substantial disadvantage in relation to a relevant matter in comparison with persons who are not disabled, to take such steps as it is reasonable to have to take to provide the auxiliary aid.

A brief lesson from history:



United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Governments should:

- Provide information in accessible formats
- Ensure people can use sign language, Braille etc when dealing with public services of the state
- Urge private service providers to provide accessible information
- Encourage the mass media to make their services accessible
- Recognising and promoting the use of sign language

Conclusion

....in many areas of life, deaf people living on the Isle of Man have a much worse quality of life than hearing people. It is of particular concern that in relation to situations where deaf people's health, lives and liberty are at stake, there is currently no system for the provision of appropriate communication support. The good news is that this situation can be changed for the better.

What next?

Some recommendations needing immediate attention or being addressed on the Isle of Man:

- Sign Language Interpreters to be made available where a deaf person's life, health or liberty is at stake
- Deaf awareness training for health care professionals
- Deaf awareness training for legal professionals
- Deaf awareness training for all frontline emergency services staff
- Specialist mental health advice needed

The Wisdom of the Vikings: Havamal

- *Haltur ríður hrossi,
hjörð rekur handar vanur,
daufur vegur og dugir.
Blindur er betri
en brenndur sé,
nýtur manngi nás.*
- “The lame can ride a horse,/a flock of cattle can be driven by a handless,/the deaf can fight a battle bravely. /It’s better to be blind/than to be burned/the dead are no use to anyone.”

A LIFE LESS EQUAL?



Gura Mie / Thank You



Manx Deaf Society
Manninagh Bouyr Sheshaght



Deafway
SERVICES FROM A CULTURE