



Cover  
**50%**  
of training costs

# Improve the BSL skills of your communication support workers

Schools, colleges and education authorities in England can apply to a new fund for improving the BSL skills of communication support workers (CSWs) working with deaf children and young people.

For further information or an application form email [martin.mclean@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:martin.mclean@ndcs.org.uk)

**ndcs**  
every deaf child

The minimum recommended qualification level for CSWs is BSL Level 3 accompanied by a CSW qualification. However, many CSWs are under qualified which can result in poor access to the curriculum for deaf children and young people who rely on BSL.

The fund will pay up to 50% of the cost of accessing BSL training including travel and accommodation. Priority will be given to those moving up from Level 2 to Level 3.

**Applications must be received no later than 28th February 2014.**  
(Grants will be allocated on a monthly basis until fund is depleted. Applicants are advised to apply as soon as possible).

### **Criteria for communication support worker (CSW) Fund**

- To be used to up-skill BSL level of CSWs currently supporting deaf students in England
- At least 50% of training costs must be met by employer (i.e. school, college or LEA)
- Training must be completed by February 2015
- Must report back on impact of the training on children/young people CSW working with
- Only one training place can be funded per grant

### **Priority is given to:**

- CSWs at BSL Level 2 to up-skill to Level 3
- Those working in schools with children/young people aged 16 or under
- Making sure there is geographical spread of funding

Funded by



Department  
for Education

The fund is being made available via I-Sign, a Department for Education funded project which aims to improve access to BSL learning and BSL provision for deaf children and their families. The fund is supported by the Deaf Education Support Forum (DESF). The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is administering the grants and managing the overall I-Sign project. NDCS is a registered charity: England and Wales (1016532) and Scotland (SC040779)

# I-Sign