

Update meeting between representatives of NRCPD and ASLI

Bristol - 23 February 2012

In attendance: Paul Parsons – NRCPD
Sarah Haynes – ASLI

Issues covered

1 – NRCPD website

The website is in the final stage of redevelopment. Paul shared the principles behind the structure and content of the new site.

We discussed the functionality of the register search and Paul asked Sarah to remind members to keep their information up to date because the search results are only as good as the information regulated professionals input in the advertising section of their online NRCPD account.

Some Deaf people have told NRCPD they would like to see each professional's ID Card photograph included on NRCPD search results so they can easily identify individuals. We discussed the merits of the idea and both agreed to look further into the benefits and possibilities of such a move. Sarah agreed to raise the issue with ASLI NEC and feedback to Paul on views there. We also discussed the value of allowing regulated professionals to upload video to their profile so Deaf people can make more informed choices about who they engage. We agreed to discuss this amongst our networks.

Sarah asked about the inclusion of Trainees on the register search results. Paul explained that previously service users had to make an active choice to do a search for TIs or JTIs entirely separate from the search for MRSLI. In the new search we have given searchers the option to include trainees in the primary search function so service users can more easily access that information.

2 – Transition to new single trainee category

Sarah asked Paul to clarify the situation for Trainee Interpreters and Junior Trainee Interpreters in moving to the new single Trainee Sign Language Interpreter category. Paul accepted that the arrangements for moving to a simplified position might appear complicated in the short term and stated the position is that the conditions under which individuals have committed to or completed their training still apply to them. Paul explained that the aim is to move to the new position quickly to achieve the greater clarity requested by the public in a way that actively includes interpreting students and current trainees to make sure they and their clients are not disadvantaged unnecessarily.

To that end:

1. Those who hold TI or JTI status will become Trainee Sign Language Interpreter automatically when they renew in 2012.
2. Those who have already successfully completed a course (or will complete before end June 2012) that makes them eligible for TI or JTI status have a period (until 5pm on 28 September 2012) in which they can make their application before the new competence standards are applied.

3. Those who are on a course which would have made them eligible for TI or JTI status that will finish after end June 2012 will have a period (three months) after successfully completing their course, in which they can make an application under the old competence criteria and may be accepted as a Trainee Sign Language Interpreter. (Approved providers will be asked to provide NRCPD with a list of students' names in October 2012)
4. Those who are committed to starting a course of training by October 2012 that would have made them eligible for TI or JTI status will have a period (three months) after finishing their course in which they can make an application under the old competence standard. (Approved providers will be asked to provide NRCPD with a list of students' names in October 2012)

Those not in one of the above categories, or those in the above categories who miss the associated deadlines, will have to meet the new criteria from 1 October 2012.

3 – Annual Revalidation

Paul explained that the revalidation section of regulated professionals' online NRCPD accounts would be available in April. As Registered professionals renew they will be able to access the function. NRCPD has designed it to be a very simple record of activity. Sarah asked that NRCPD approve ASLI membership as a way of meeting the revalidation requirement and agreed to provide a formal request and associated documentation to allow NRCPD to formally assess the ASLI CPD scheme.

Paul told Sarah that NRCPD had received a letter from another organisation pointing out that the implementation schedule for revalidation NRCPD has published is not linear with a request that we amend from 35 to 30 hours the third year and ongoing requirement. The Board will consider that request at its next meeting.

4 – ASLI Conference

Sarah shared some details of the ASLI conference planned for September. Paul asked Sarah to provide details of costs for exhibition space, observer delegates and opportunities to promote NRCPD at the event.

5 – Ministry of Justice

Sarah asked Paul if NRCPD would be prepared to take part in action to monitor the outcomes and success of the contract. We agreed this would be most suitable after the contract has run for six months.

6 – Promotional Activity

Sarah asked if NRCPD has plans to promote using Registered interpreters to the Deaf Community. Paul explained there are plans in place for some initial campaigning in the remainder of this financial year (budgets allowing) trailing a comprehensive campaign in the 2012/13 financial year. NRCPD continues to promote the benefits of using only regulated communication professionals to purchasers, principally public service providers.