

## **Meeting with representatives of Visual Language Professionals (VLP)**

**20 September 2013, Leeds**

### **Present:**

VLP: Alan Haythornthwaite, Van Holtom, David Wycherley

NRCPD: Jim Edwards

**Interim Registrar:** Following Paul Parsons' departure and whilst the options appraisal is under consideration, Janice Spalding has been appointed as interim registrar with NRCPD. Janice will be working closely with Angela Nunn for 3 days per week for the next few months.

**CPD:** VLP reaffirmed their concern/objection to compulsory professional development. They support the notion of voluntary professional development, but raised concerns about the availability of both a breadth of CPD and 'new' development opportunities (year on year). They also raised questions about both the sampling/verification of CPD and its monitoring. VLP cited examples of other professions that undertake CPD (social work, nursing) in which they felt do not have a set number of hours to complete and which do not split CPD activities into formal and informal. NRCPD agreed to look into this.

**VLP** has over 400 members, with only qualified professionals now being accepted, and includes several types of communication professionals as members. It is holding a major conference 28 – 29 September to provide learning and development opportunities for members.

**NRCPD Options appraisal:** NRCPD Board is due to consider the evidence collected and the analysis of the regulatory environment at their next meeting later in September. The Board's preferred option(s) will be consulted on further over the next few months, with stakeholders, including service users (deaf people), purchasers and communication professionals. VLP urged that NRCPD seek to re-establish a credible dialogue with registrants, suggesting options of how to engage, road shows, etc. VLP asked whether the appraisal would open an opportunity to see 'professionals' involved in governance of NRCPD.

VLP felt there would be value in considering a dialogue with bodies like CIOL and/or NRSPI in relation to joint learning and synergy.

The options appraisal results will be shared with stakeholders.

**NRCPD Complaints Process:** VLP asked about making accessibility to the complaints process more simple and usable, especially for service users.

**Public Protection:** The issue of protected status was discussed and looking at options like a Chartered body was a part of this process. Initial work had been undertaken by Paul Parsons and improving public protection is on the agenda for NRCPD. It was felt that this was an opportunity for all membership organisations to work together to achieve this. VLP suggested the timescale to achieve chartership would be a quicker one than trying to directly protect the title “Interpreter”. VLP is willing to work with other interpreter organisations to support this move.

**VLP Badge:** It was acknowledged that the VLP badge uses the same colour as NRCPD; this was a conscious choice to help promote the importance in the deaf community of asking for ‘identification’. VLP does not seek to become a register or regulator and would welcome feedback if members are trying to pass one off as the other. NRCPD acknowledged the intentions but remained concerned about the potential confusion.