Deaf and Assertive
UK & its population

- Scotland: 5.1 million
- England 50.1 million
- Wales 2.9 million
- Northern Ireland 1.7 million

Total population: 59.8 million
Deaf people in the UK

According to the RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People)

1 person in seven people in the UK has a significant hearing loss, ranging from profound deafness to hard-of-hearing

!!! 8.6 million people !!!
BSL-using Deaf people in the UK

According to the BDA (British Deaf Association)

50,000 BSL-using Deaf persons in the UK
BSL-using people in the UK

According to the BDA (British Deaf Association)

250,000 BSL-using persons in the UK
State of Deaf education in the UK

96% of hearing impaired children educated in mainstream settings

(NDCS)

37 free-standing deaf schools

(RAD)

Different communication methods

BSL, Sign Supported English, Signed English, Cued Speech, Oral, Oral/Aural, Bi-linguallism, Total Communication
Brief History of the Deaf Community in the UK (1)

- **1760** Thomas Braidwood established the world’s first regularly organised school for the deaf in Edinburgh.
- **1830** Matthew Robert Burns led the world’s first Deaf-led religious service for deaf worshippers in Edinburgh.
- **1835** In Edinburgh, Alexander Blackwood established the world’s first local deaf society.
Brief History of the Deaf Community in the UK (2)

- 1890  The formation of the BDDA - the first organisation led by disabled group in the UK
- 1980  The Education Act
- 1995  Disability Discrimination Act
- 2001  Special educational Needs and Disability Act
- 2003  Official recognition of BSL
Gordon Hay

• I am 24 years old. I am profoundly Deaf like my parents and also, my brother, David.

• I graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a degree in the Combined Award of Digital Media and Photography in 2003.

• I live in Prague with my girlfriend, Ivana.
Gordon and the Frontrunners Project

• *Was in Denmark for 3 months doing the WFD-approved Frontrunners Project last year.*

• *Attended by potential leaders of the deaf communities in the world.*

• *Young people attending from the USA, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Ireland and France.*
Frontrunners Project

• *Frontrunners is the Worldwide Deaf Leadership Training programme.*

• *Young students are being taught by many Deaf professionals with a lot of experiences in their fields.*

• *The course was taught mainly in International Sign.*
Issues covered

- Deaf issues in relation to United Nations’ Convention
- Deaf History
- Sign Language legislation
- Deaf people as linguistic/ethnic minority
- World Federation of the Deaf and its works
- Campaigning against Genocide at the WFD Congress, Finland
Deaf Genocide

- The main topic chosen and explored by the students was Deaf Genocide.
- It focuses mainly on Deaf groups being victims of genocide everyday everywhere in the world.
- Being a victim is when we are moving to the Oral environment because of lack of choices we have.
- We have the right to use our chosen and preferred language, which is Sign Language.
Frontrunners Project

• [www.frontblog.dk](http://www.frontblog.dk) – the website of the first Frontrunners project. You can see most of our activities presented both in International Sign and the English text.

The second Frontrunners Project will be held in Denmark this year.

• [www.frontrunners.dk](http://www.frontrunners.dk) – for information on the second FR project.
I am sorry for not being with you.
I am presently working as one of youth counsellors at the DeafCamp2006 in Nottinghamshire, about a 5 hours drive away from you!
I did that job last year so they have asked me to join them again!
David Hay

I am 21 years old. I am profoundly Deaf and proud of it!

I am the student at the University of Wolverhampton studying Property Asset Management.

At university I get BSL/English interpreting and also, manual note-taking facilities as part of student support available for some 55 D/deaf students.
In the heart of the Robin Hood Country in Nottinghamshire, my role was Camp Counsellor for a week to supervise over 40 deaf children doing a great variety of activities.
Last year, I had a 4-month long contract job as a junior researcher for the 5th series of Channel 4’s Vee TV.

It is a mainstream programme suitable for viewers aged 18 – 25, with BSL being used.

I researched an item on NTID and Rochester to show young deaf British viewers how young deaf Americans live.
BDA Sex Education DVD

I took part in the sex education DVD for young Deaf people to combat against the rise of AIDS among the deaf community.
I led the workshops on the BDA Sex Education DVD during the BDA Deaf Youth Workers Forum Conference in Belfast from 23rd to 25th September 2005. I collected feedback from youth workers on contents of the DVD.
Youth Camps in 2006

• **IUK Deaf Camp 2006**: Northern Ireland
  24\textsuperscript{th} – 30\textsuperscript{th} July 2006

  *Deaf Diversity*

• **DeafCamp 2006**: Nottinghamshire
  5\textsuperscript{th} – 12\textsuperscript{th} August 2006

• **EuroCamp 2006**: Dublin, Eire
  8\textsuperscript{th} – 15\textsuperscript{th} August 2006

  *Achieving a new Sign Language Community*
Job opportunities within the Youth Service Sector

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR FOR NIDYA

1. To maintain and develop NIDYA's Youth Strategy
2. To ensure that Youth Workers receive appropriate training and follow current policies
3. To manage the Youth Service and a team of youth workers
John A Hay

• Born Deaf
• Worked as:
  Architectural Technician with Edinburgh City Council – 25 years
  BDA Community & Advocacy Service Officer in Scotland – 5 years
• Now:
  Senior Lecturer of Deaf Studies & BSL/English Interpreting at the University of Wolverhampton since 1998
• Married to Deaf girl, Shirley
• Father of 2 Deaf boys
BDA Visible Voices Project

Why Visible Voices Project?

• To empower deaf people to have more say on services
• To comply with various Acts such as The Health and Community Acts which demands consultative groups of services users
• To sway away from the “let them do for us” mentality
BDA Visible Voices Project

• To set up local forums of Deaf services users
• To empower deaf services users to have a say in services provision for deaf people
• To work in partnership with local authorities, social services & health boards in making services more accessible for Deaf people
BDA Visible Voices Project

Deaf Services Users Forums

Supported by BSL/English Interpreters
(paid by councils or health boards)

Attended by officials responsible for planning provision of services for communities, including deaf people
Training for forum members

• Deaf awareness
• How to use interpreter effectively
• How to speak for yourself and on behalf of others
• Committee procedure
• Community legislation
• How local government & health services work
BDA Visible Voices Project

Forums established where?

Everywhere in the UK
Run by different groups, including BDA community staff
Deaf and Assertive

Today in the 21st century, deaf people are now more assertive than before!

Thanks to:-

- Better educational opportunities
- Positive public awareness on deafness and deaf people
- Public acceptance of BSL
- Legal protection on rights of deaf people
Deaf and Assertive

Thank you, PEN-International, for inviting us to sign-talk you!

Thank you for watching us!

Enjoy the rest of the evening with us!