



Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee

5 March 2026

Update: Borders College British Sign Language (BSL) Action Plan

1.0 PURPOSE OF PAPER

For discussion

- 1.1 To provide the Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee with a progress update on the implementation of the Borders College British Sign Language (BSL) Action Plan 2024-30. Detailed progress against individual actions is contained within the accompanying appendix.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Borders College BSL Action Plan 2024-2030 aligns with the National BSL Plan and is structured around five long-term goals; accessibility; children, young people and families; health and wellbeing; celebrating BSL culture; and democratic participation.
- 2.2 Overall progress is positive with most actions either in progress or embedded within ongoing mainstreaming activity. Work to improve accessibility of information, strengthen transitions, raise awareness of BSL culture and ensure inclusive engagement processes continues. Some actions are longer term in nature and will continue to be delivered across the lifespan of the plan.
- 2.3 No actions are currently assessed as being at significant risk of non-delivery, though sustained focus and resourcing will be required to meet future milestones.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTION(S) REQUIRED

- 3.1 I recommend that the Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee:
- 3.1.1 Note the progress made to date on the BSL Action Plan 2024-2030.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Borders College has a statutory duty under the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 to promote and facilitate the use of BSL. The BSL Action Plan 2024-2030 sets out how the College will meet this duty and support BSL users across learning, support services and wider college life.
- 4.2 The plan aligns with the ten long-term priorities of the National BSL Plan and is overseen by the BSL Steering Group, with progress reported annually.

5.0 Progress Overview

5.1 Progress continues across all five long-term goals:

- BSL Accessibility
- Children, Young People and Their Families
- Health and Wellbeing
- Celebrating BSL Culture
- Democratic Participation

5.1.1 Detailed action-level progress, including timescales and status, is provided within the appendix.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications arising from this update. Activity is largely delivered through existing resources and partnership working.

6.2 Learner Implications

The continues implementation of the BSL Action Plan supports improved access, including and participation for BSL users, enhancing their overall learning experience and outcomes.

6.3 Staff Implications

Staff benefit from increased guidance, training opportunities and resources to support confident and inclusive practice when working with BSL users.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications/Equality Impact Assessment

The BSL Action Plan directly contributes to the College's EDI objectives by reducing barriers, promoting accessibility and ensuring the voices of BSL users are heard and valued.

6.5 Sustainability/Environmental Implications

The plan promotes sustainable approaches through mainstreaming accessibility, embedding inclusive practice and considering long-term models of support rather than short-term solutions.

7.0 RISK COMMENTARY

7.1 The risks of not engaging in the work within the Plan risks a reduction in accessibility and participation for BSL users, and may result in a failure to meet statutory duties under the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Borders College BSL Action Plan 2024-2030 is progressing well with strong alignment to national priorities. Continued oversight, partnership working and annual reporting will ensure momentum is maintained and that outcomes for BSL users, including increased engagement and enrolment.

Amy Brydon

Director of Student Support Services

06/01/2026

Previous Board or College Committee Approvals:

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Section 2

Borders College BSL Plan 2024-2030: Long Term Goals

Borders College BSL Plan 2024-2030 has identified five long term goals. These goals are consistent and aligned within the ten long term priorities of the National BSL plan.

National BSL Priorities		Borders College BSL Long Term Goals
BSL Accessibility	1	Promote and develop sustainable approaches to ensure that BSL users have access to opportunities, support and services.
Children, Young People And their Families	2	Support BSL users through their transition into college, participation within college and beyond.
Health and Wellbeing	3	Provide information and support to enable BSL users to live active and healthy lives.
Celebrating BSL Culture	4	Consider how we promote and raise awareness of the cultural life of Scotland with BSL users, and enable them to celebrate their own culture and heritage.
Democratic Participation	5	Ensure the voices of BSL users are heard in the matters that are important to them.

Not Started	
Complete	
Some slippage but will be complete by deadline	
In progress – ongoing	
Will not be complete by deadline	

Section 3

Borders College BSL Action Plan

BSL Accessibility Long Term Goal 1 Promote and develop sustainable approaches to ensure that BSL users have access to opportunities, support and services. Borders College BSL Actions: • Review, improve and develop accessible materials and information for BSL users across college systems e.g. website, learning platforms and approaches. • Consider the sustainability of the support offered to BSL users across our services. • Provide opportunities for staff attend BSL training. • Explore assistive technology and AI to support BSL users.
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Actions	Tasks	SLT Lead & Timescale	WLT Responsibility	Progress
Review, improve and develop accessible materials and information for BSL users across college systems e.g. website, learning platforms and approaches.	Create a dedicated space for BSL users to access information, resources and training in relation to accessibility. BSL users to review college systems e.g. website, learning platforms and approaches.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association By August 2027	Student Support Services Manager - Learning Support	 Continuing to explore opportunities.
Consider the sustainability of the support offered to BSL users across our services.	Identify alternative funding streams to support non-bursary funded students. Identify support available to BSL users e.g. staff.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association Reviewed annually	Student Funding Manager	 Some funding streams explored.
Provide opportunities for staff attend BSL training.	Deliver BSL training to relevant teams as and when required.	Director of People Services Ongoing	People Services Business Partner	
Explore assistive technology and AI to support BSL users.	Explore options for external review of current Assistive Technology (AT). Explore developments in AT to support BSL learners.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association By August 2026	Student Support Services Manager Learning Support Assistive Technologist	 Plans to visit other college's to review opportunities.

Children, Young People and their Families

Long Term Goal 2

Support BSL users through their transition into college, participation within college and beyond.

Borders College BSL Actions:

- Continue to review and develop approaches to transition and support for BSL users into college.
- Improve outreach meetings with schools to gather greater understanding of the support that is required and available for BSL users.
- Work with partners and services to provide details of schemes to support transition beyond college and into work.
- Ensure curriculum staff working with BSL users are aware of and can support the needs of BSL users.
- Ensure support and information is available to all staff to build confident and positive interactions and communication with BSL users.

Actions	Tasks	SLT Lead & Timescale	WLT Responsibility	Progress
Continue to review and develop approaches to transition into college for BSL users and develop a greater understanding of the support that is required and available for BSL users.	Developing a transitions timeline which facilitates early engagement with high schools. Refine the information gathered from high schools to be able to plan support more effectively.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association Start February 2025	Student Support Services Manager Learning Support	 Improving links with key personal via Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) and schools BSL staff group (SBC)
Work with partners and services to provide details of schemes to support transition beyond college and into work.	Investigate the transitions support available to BSL users. Ensure that staff are aware of support available to BSL users. Explore the opportunities to provide dedicated careers advice	Director of Student Services & Students' Association Start August 2025	Student Support Services Manager Welfare & Transitions	 SDS have confirmed offer of BSL interpreter at interview. Current Careers Advisor has Level1&2 BSL.

	for all BSL users during their time at college.			
Ensure curriculum staff working with BSL users are aware of and can support the needs of BSL users.	Create a dedicated space for staff to access information, resources and training in relation to accessibility.	Director of People Services Ongoing	People Services Business Partner	
Ensure support and information is available to all staff to build confident and positive interactions and communication with BSL users.	Develop guidance for staff to support BSL users through their transition into college.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association	Student Support Services Manager Learning Support	

Health and Wellbeing

Long Term Goal 3

Provide information and support to enable BSL users to live active and healthy lives.

Borders College BSL Actions:

- Ensure BSL users are aware of the wellbeing support they can access at college.
- Deliver health and wellbeing activities that are inclusive of the BSL community at college.

Actions	Tasks	SLT Lead & Timescale	WLT Responsibility	Progress
Ensure BSL users are aware of the wellbeing support they can access at college.	Delivery of wellbeing support information to be accessible in a variety of formats.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association Start June 2025	Student Support Services Manager Welfare & Transitions	 Accessible information on support available via our College website.

				When creating information/resources re services, QR codes and visual images are used where possible. Continue to explore suite of BSL videos.
To ensure the delivery of any health and wellbeing activities that are inclusive of the BSL community at college.	Consult with BSL users to understand what inclusivity looks like.	Director of People Services By July 2026	EDI Officer	

Celebrating BSL Culture

Long Term Goal 4

Consider how we promote and raise awareness of the cultural life of Scotland with BSL users and enable them to celebrate their own culture and heritage.

Borders College BSL Actions:

- Explore opportunities to celebrate BSL culture through our awareness raising.
- Promote events and opportunities which highlight and celebrate BSL culture.

Actions	Tasks	SLT Lead & Timescale	WLT Responsibility	Progress
Explore opportunities to celebrate BSL culture through our awareness raising.	Ensure that BSL culture has a space in college annual Equalities Awareness Calendar.	Director of People Services Ongoing	EDI Officer	 This continues to be addressed though mainstreaming work.

Promote events and opportunities which highlight and celebrate BSL culture.	Explore BSL culture to enable the college to understand and engage in events and opportunities.	Director of People Services Ongoing	EDI Officer	 College is linked into BSL HE/FE Sector group, and wider national networks e.g. British Deaf Association, BSL Network for Listed Authorities to share cultural opportunities e.g. email, newsletter
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Democratic Participation

Long Term Goal 5

Ensure the voices of BSL users are heard in the matters that are important to them.

Borders College BSL Actions:

- Ensure feedback and engagement process are accessible for BSL users.
- Support BSL users to actively participate in college experiences.

Actions	Tasks	SLT Lead & Timescale	WLT Responsibility	Progress
Ensure feedback and engagement process are accessible for BSL users.	Review student feedback procedure document to ensure accessibility for BSL users.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association Start August 2025	Students' Association Officer	 Student feedback procedure document is currently under review.

Support BSL users to actively participate in college experiences.	Explore the barriers that BSL users may face when participating in college experiences.	Director of Student Services & Students' Association By July 2026	Students' Association Officer	 Development of an adapted EQIA/ checklist for consideration when planning.
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