Community Development Team

Sam Joins DCAL 'on the road'

The DCAL roadshow has been touring around key cities in the UK, including Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast. When they came to the Centre for Deaf People in Bristol, on Saturday 9th July, Sam Hall, Community Development Officer went along to find out more and manned the BDA Information Stand at the event. It was an interesting and well attended event, where deaf people, friends and family came along to find out more about DCAL's research. Sam also had the opportunity to meet with old and new BDA members, and provided leaflets, as well as explaining BDA's new exciting plans.



Sam interviewed Robert Adam to find out more about the DCAL roadshow.

What is the DCAL roadshow for?

Deaf people do not know as much about their sign language as hearing people know about their spoken language i.e. it is not studied as a language in schools. Deaf people do not always understand the nature of their language and how being Deaf can influence their experience. Deaf people do not have equal access to society because not everyone can sign and interpreters are not readily available. In the past research on Deaf people and sign language has often not been accessible for Deaf people. We believe that it is our role to disseminate our findings in BSL to the Deaf Community. We obtained funds from the UCL Beacons for Public Engagement to organise a Roadshow visiting six cities in Britain and to add pages to our website where Deaf people will be able to find out more in BSL about our research.

What has been the reaction at the roadshows from the deaf community?

Deaf people have been very interested to come and learn about our research at DCAL. We have received

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mostly positive feedback from Deaf people, and we have also had Deaf people make suggestions about our future research projects.



What future plans does DCAL have?

We are in our second 5-year funding period and we have a full research programme. Our two main research questions are: How does deafness and the use of sign language influence language, and how does deafness and early language experience impact cognitive functions?

Anything else you would like readers to know about?

For further details, visit the DCAL website: www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk. We will be adding new public engagement pages as time goes on and all of the presentations at our DCAL Deaf Open Day and DCAL Roadshow will eventually be available through our website. It is hoped that Deaf people will be able to visit our website and find out more about our research in BSL.