

**IN-HOUSE training brought to you ... high quality, flexible and cost effective**

## **Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language**

*Learn basic signing skills and best practice for interacting with Deaf customers and colleagues*



This informative and exciting training course provides colleagues with an introduction to Deaf culture and British Sign Language. It is delivered by a **Gary O'Dowd**, a Deaf education professional and voiced over by **Alex Vann**, a Level 6 signer and communication support worker.

**This one day in-house course will:**

- **“Myth bust” common misconceptions about the Deaf community**
  - **Provide an overview of Deaf culture and history**
  - **Teach an introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)**
- **Inform about best practices with working with Deaf customers and colleagues**
- **Provide signposts to further development in this area for those who are interested**

*This professional training course is supported by a comprehensive manual written specifically for the event. The manual contains all materials used throughout the day, reducing the need for extensive note taking.*

9.00 - 9.30

## Registration and refreshments

9.30 - 10.00

### Deaf Culture and History

- What is the 'Deaf World'?
- A look at the Deaf experience through the ages
- The Deaf role in popular culture: film, TV, magazines, sport and theatre
- The prohibition of Sign Language
- The differences between the Deaf and Hearing worlds

10.00 - 10.30

### Myth Busting

- Popular misconceptions
- All sign languages are not the same
- What not to say when you meet a Deaf person

10.30 - 10.45

### Assistance aids for Deaf people

- Alarm clocks
- Smoke alarms
- Hearing Aids
- Door Bells

10.45 - 11.00

## Mid-morning refreshments

11.00 - 12.30

### British Sign Language (BSL)

- What is BSL?
- Official recognition
- Why is it important to Deaf culture?
- How to fingerspell A-Z
- Signing your name

12.30 - 13.30

## Lunch (please note afternoon tea is served during sessions)

13.30 - 14.45

### BSL Vocabulary

- How to meet and greet a Deaf person
- Everyday phrases
- BSL games

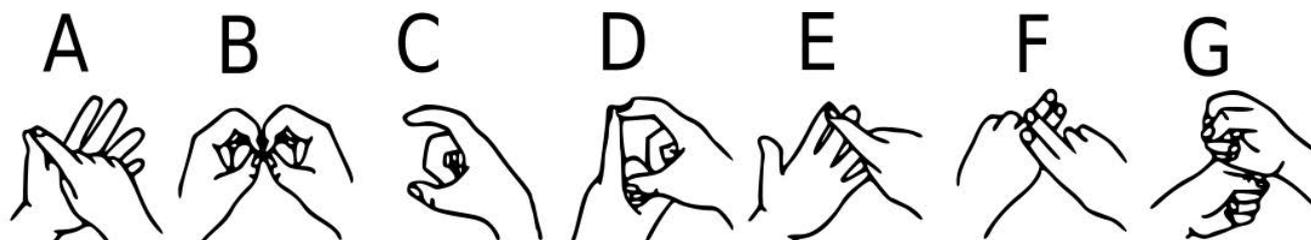
14.45 - 15.30

### Further Opportunities

- Working with Deaf children
- Sign Language courses / qualifications
- The role of the interpreter
- Apps/online resources
- Question and Answer session
- Deaf Awareness Week 14-20 May 2018

15.30

### End of Course



# The trainers

## Gary O'Dowd



Gary is profoundly Deaf and was born and raised in a Hearing family in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. He attended Northern Counties School for the Deaf. Gary trained as an actor as a child and appeared in the hit children's TV series 'Byker Grove' alongside 'Ant and Dec'. He was a regular presenter for 'Sign On', a TV programme for Deaf people in the North of England. Gary also starred in several information videos for Deaf people made by Wolverhampton University. Gary is a qualified Level 3 teaching assistant and works with young deaf people at Braidwood School for the Deaf in Birmingham, many of whom have additional educational needs. He runs his own creative arts business the rest of the time, often delivering workshops to education and other community settings.

## Alex Vann

Alex is an all round creative (artist, graphic designer, musician, songwriter) and is also qualified to Level 6 in BSL (British Sign Language). Alex set up 'RAW -Real Arts Workshops', an art and music workshop provider to education and other settings with help from the Prince's Trust. He started studying British Sign Language after meeting Gary over 10 years ago and has since become part of the local deaf /signing community. Alex has taught sign language to children and adults for many years and runs a BSL school club.



This course can be delivered to a max of 25 participants (for quality purposes)  
Please contact us for a quote on [rta-training@forumbusinessmedia.co.uk](mailto:rta-training@forumbusinessmedia.co.uk) or feel free to contact the office directly on **020 8611 2605**

