

GENERAL APPROACH

Whilst I would welcome greater recognition being given to BSL, I have concerns around the Bill being solely about the use of BSL and solely around the needs of the deaf community. Our citizens have a wide range of support needs and I am concerned that putting a focus on one group will potentially minimise support available to others.

Children across our city use a range of communication systems including PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), technological aids and Makaton signing, the most appropriate method being agreed through a multi-agency approach including colleagues in health.

I would have thought that a focus on responding to the varied communication needs of city populations would be more appropriate. By focussing purely on one method of communication used by the deaf community, we are potentially reducing the focus on others.

DUTIES ON SCOTTISH MINISTERS

It would be helpful to hear of examples of best practice nationally and this will guide colleagues to learn from this best practice.

BSL AUTHORITY PLANS

A concern would be that focus is taken away from areas that have already been identified as areas for development.

Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Kind regards,

Eleanor Sheppard