



MEDIA INFORMATION

01 February 2011

Local Partners Launch British Sign Language Clips

This week, partner services in the East Riding will launch British Sign Language (BSL) clips to improve access to services for deaf and hearing impaired residents.

The innovative BSL clips, which provide an alternative to written information, are a first of their kind in public services and have been produced following ongoing consultation with deaf and hearing impaired residents.

Mary Hayes a local resident and a member of the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Deaf explained:

“A few years ago we had a lot of frustrations when it came to accessing services from the council, NHS and the emergency services, so we set up a forum to discuss these issues and to help the organisations find solutions.

The BSL clips have come a long way; they’re a really good alternative for people who are deaf to find out about what the different services provide, other than ringing the switchboards.”

The clips include service information from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humberside Fire and Rescue, Humberside Police, Humberside Police Authority and NHS East Riding of Yorkshire.

Cllr Ros Jump, portfolio holder for community engagement in the East Riding said:

“These service clips are one of many successes through the Forum; including training for staff, establishing an emergency text service and all round improvements in public services.”

The clips will be showcased on Tuesday 1st and Thursday 3rd February, at Hull Institute for the Deaf on Springbank in Hull, and on Friday 4th February at Bridlington Resource Centre, prior to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Forum.

Clips are also accessible via the organisations' websites, or a DVD is also available on request from equalities@eastriding.gov.uk

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

For further information please contact Claire Harrison on 01482 317003/07792 935581 or email claire.harrison@humberside.pnn.police.uk