

# REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS NEWSLETTER

**OCTOBER 2005**

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## **This newsletter is distributed to:**

- Registered BSL/English Interpreters, Deafblind Interpreters (Manual), Lipspeakers and Speech to Text Reporters;
- Approved NVQ Assessment Centres;
- Qualifications Committees for Interpreting, Lipspeaking, Deafblind and STT/Note-taking;
- The Independent Registration Panel;
- The Consortium of Interpreter Training and Assessment Providers.

## **Editor**

Suzie Maine, CACDP Senior Qualifications Officer - ACE

## 1. General information

The number of Language Service Professionals (LSPs) registered from September 2005 is as follows:

Category	September 2005
Member of the Register of BSL/English Interpreters	243
Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	42
Junior Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	75
Member of the Register of Deafblind Interpreters (Manual)	31
Member of the Register of Speech to Text Reporters	15
Member of the Register of Level 3 Lipspeakers	32
Registered Level 2 Lipspeaker	23

The CACDP database has now been updated with details of all new LSPs from 1 September 2005.

### Changes to contact details

Please remember to update us on any changes to registration or advertising details as soon as they occur.

The next registration date is 1 January 2006 with a closing date for receipt of applications of 31 October 2005.

## 2. BSL/English interpreting

### Review of National Occupational Standards

National Occupational Standards describe good practice in the workplace in terms of what individuals need to be able to do, as well as what they need to know and understand, in order to carry out their work. Standards-setting bodies are recognised by government and are usually called Sector Skills Councils. They used to be known as National Training Organisations. A 'standards-setting body' is an employer-led group responsible for setting the National Occupational Standards for particular jobs or work-roles in their industry.

In the languages field, the standards-setting body is CILT – The National Centre for Languages. CILT sets standards for languages, interpreting, and translation. The National Standards for Interpreting were approved by government in 2001, but are under review by CILT at the present time.

Once standards have been approved, qualifications can then be created from them. The Diploma in Public Service Interpreting will use the same underpinning standards as the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English). Those who have achieved Level 4 competence as defined by the standards are deemed 'safe to practise' as interpreters.

For candidates taking the NVQ, the current standards are divided into mandatory and optional units. The mandatory units represent the core competencies expected of all interpreters. Currently, to achieve the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English), a candidate needs to have completed the three units which make up the Level 4 NVQ in BSL, plus five interpreting units. Three of these cover preparation, interpreting and evaluation of assignments. There are then two more optional units needed for the full NVQ.

The revised National Interpreting Standards could include the following changes:

- The new National Qualifications Framework (NQF), introduced in 2004, has divided what was previously known as 'Level 4', into Levels 4, 5 and 6<sup>1</sup>. What was 'Level 5' has become Levels 7 and 8<sup>2</sup>. CILT is proposing that the revised National Interpreting Standards should be set at Levels 6 and 7 in the new NQF, replacing current standards at Levels 4 and 5 respectively.
- The interpreting practice unit could be split into two smaller units – 'interpreting one-way' and 'interpreting two-way'.
- The unit covering sight translation could become mandatory.
- The Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) could be obtained by completing five mandatory units – preparation, interpreting one-way, interpreting two-way, evaluation and sight translation.
- Other optional units at Level 4/new Level 6 could be part of an interpreter's Continuous Professional Development (CPD). For example, 'working with other interpreters', 'prepared interpretation'.

For more information on the standards review, please go to the CILT website at [www.cilt.org.uk](http://www.cilt.org.uk).

It is still not too late to comment on these proposals! Please contact our Qualifications Officer – BSL/English Interpreting, Rosie Addis, at [rosiea@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:rosiea@cacdp.org.uk) if you want any comments to be passed on to CILT, or if you have any comments you would like to make in relation to the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English). Rosie looks forward to receiving your emails.

### **3. Farewell from Jane Andrews, Qualifications Officer – Deafblind**

Jane Andrews was, until earlier this year, CACDP's Qualifications Officer – Deafblind. She writes:

"I joined CACDP in January 1998 on a one-year contract and now some seven years later I am leaving. I have had a wonderful time, learnt so much and worked with truly great people.

"One of my first telephone messages waiting for me when I started work was 'call the BBC editing suite'. I realised then it was going to be very different from being a Social Work Team Manager! Since then I have been involved in filming not just for the BBC but also for CACDP training videos, have travelled to Holland, had our training pack sent to Russia, travelled to most parts of Britain, become an expert on where the toilets are on train stations and was even locked in a cupboard during an exam!

"CACDP has always been committed to the highest standards in deafblind qualifications and assessments and as such, has recruited excellent examiners, and with their help I am sure the assessments will continue to be truly reflective of the skills required to work with deafblind people. I have been fortunate to work with the key specialist service providers, Deafblind Scotland, Deafblind UK, Sense and the RNIB in developing the Certificate and Diploma in Deafblind Studies. This development ensures service provision to deafblind people will continue to grow and be of the very best quality.

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<sup>1</sup> New Level 4 is approximately equivalent to HND level; Level 5 is 'Pass' degree level, and Level 6 is 'Honours' degree level.

<sup>2</sup> New Level 7 is approximately equivalent to Masters level; Level 8 is PhD level.

“This has been one of the most inspiring and challenging periods of my life and I have loved it all. I shall miss working with the Deafblind Qualifications Committee who have always been very supportive and our examiners who have taught me so much, as well as my colleagues from other organisations and CACDP. However, I leave knowing that the commitment to the highest standards and quality of work within the deafblind field remains central to the workings of CACDP.

“Many thanks to everyone who has helped CACDP establish such excellent standards thus far and I look forward to hearing of future developments.”

Best wishes

Jane Andrews

#### **4. ACE updates – Response to the ACE report and summary of the main points of the last meeting of the ACE coalition**

Scotland provided the best response to the ACE report because the publication of the report coincided with the Scottish Executive initiatives on BSL and Linguistic Access. The Scottish Executive are wanting Edinburgh City to become a ‘flagship/model of good practice’ for other local authorities in Scotland on access for deaf people.

A strategy has been agreed to generate demand for and increase the supply of LSPs. This will aim to quantify demand and work out what resources are needed to meet this demand via training programmes and CPD.

Several leaflets will be designed, aimed at a range of audiences including, users, potential new (uninformed) users, service providers and employers.

The status of professional development of each group of LSPs was reviewed. CPD is seen as something that will potentially become an integral part of registration in the future. A good LSP will be automatically reviewing their performance on a case by case basis and self-evaluating their performances anyway, so they are always looking to improve their skills for the different deaf people they work with. If you do this already, we would encourage you to keep your evidence in a file or portfolio for your own future reference.

RNID is to arrange six regional meetings to set up a new Electronic Note-takers professional association.

#### **New technologies**

The NADP/UKCOD Conference, to be held on 4 October 2005, will focus on new technologies for people who use English as their first language and means of communication. It should be of interest to those who are always looking for something new to continue their development as a LSP. It would also be a good conference for those of you who are keen on CPD.

#### **CRB checks**

RNID are continuing to offer free Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for LSPs including Note-takers. This will stop in March 2006, so if you haven’t taken advantage of this, please do so now!

## 5. Introducing the new Qualifications Officer – ACE

Many readers will now know that Roz Chalmers, Qualifications Officer – Lipspeaking, Note-taking, and Speech to Text Reporting (STTR), left CACDP in May this year for new horizons after almost seven years in the job. Roz’s knowledge and expertise has been very valuable to CACDP, covering a wide range of experience and skills.

CACDP’s Senior Qualifications Officer, Suzie Maine, has transferred her responsibility from the Deaf Awareness/Communication Tactics qualifications to focus on the Lipspeaking, Electronic and Manual Note-taking qualifications, and STTR. Suzie also has responsibility for ensuring that the registration arm of CACDP’s work is kept up to date and targets are met. Suzie’s job title is ‘Qualifications Officer – Access to Communication in English’, or ‘ACE’ for short. Following the publication of the ACE report, this seemed a perfect opportunity to change the job title.

Suzie says:

“I have had a busy start to my new responsibility for Lipspeaking, STTR and Note-taking, with the ACE campaign, and plans for unitisation of CACDP qualifications in these areas. It is looking as if things are not going to slow down! I am based full-time at the Durham Office, but I am often to be found travelling around the country meeting examiners, checking that the standards of the qualifications are being followed, and meeting lots of people in the field who all are experts in their areas. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on [suziem@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:suziem@cacdp.org.uk).”

## 6. Obituary – Margaret Reynolds

Extract from an obituary written by Stewart Simpson, former Chief Executive of CACDP.

Margaret originally trained and worked in the NHS as an Audiologist. In the early 1980s, she joined the RNID in Scotland as a hearing aid advisor.

Margaret first became involved with CACDP in the 1980s. She acquired the CACDP Stage 3 in BSL and quickly qualified as a Lipspeaker. By 1989, she was a member of the Lipspeaking Advisory Committee. In 1992, she was appointed Chair of the Committee and served on CACDP’s Management Committee until 1996.

During her time on the committee, Margaret was involved in major changes which had a profound influence on the development and spread of lipspeaking provision throughout the United Kingdom.

Margaret was employed by the RNID as Regional Training Officer. Her years of experience, together with a personality which always saw the best in others, made her a superb teacher of lipspeaking and of Deaf Awareness. Outside of her work, Margaret had many other interests. She sang in the church choir, was a Eucharistic Minister, did voluntary work for children in Africa and support work for the schools’ National Orchestra.

Roz Chalmers, a friend and former colleague, added:

Whenever I watched Margaret teach, I was struck by her kindness and patience. This wasn’t just for the classroom. In our discussions about the students’ progress afterwards, it was clear that she valued each person as an individual, and found good in each of them. I never heard her say an unkind word about anyone. For Margaret, teaching was her delight, passing over her wealth of experience, her obligation, because she cared about the deaf people her students would meet.

This generosity of spirit characterised everything she did. Those who knew her saw her courage and strength in the face of her long illness. Those people she loved may take some comfort in the fact that everyone she taught has Margaret's voice in their heart.

## **7. Note-taking**

CACDP is holding a training day for new note-taking moderators in November. If you are an existing tutor or involved in assessing candidates' work as part of the course and would be interested in doing external moderating to the assessment standards, please get in touch with Suzie Maine on [suziem@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:suziem@cacdp.org.uk) or contact the Durham Office and ask for an application pack. The closing date will be mid-October.