



Care Quality Mark for Older Deaf People



Royal Association for Deaf people

[sonus]

Working with deaf people



**Every care home for older people has its share of residents with hearing loss – a natural consequence of ageing. But how many of those are Deaf: i.e. those who use British Sign Language (BSL) as their first or preferred language? And how well do care homes meet their social and communication needs?**

The numbers of older Deaf people are increasing. It is projected that by 2035 there will be between 11,500 and 26,680 Deaf people over the age of 65 and between 2,500 and 5,800 Deaf people over the age of 85.

Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD) and [sonus] are committed to increasing specialist care and support provision for older Deaf people. In addition, for those who use mainstream care, we want to work with providers to help make their service appropriately accessible to older Deaf people and their families.

We have therefore introduced Deaf-Aware Care; a Care Quality Mark for Older Deaf People. This is a way of supporting and encouraging care providers across England to develop their services to be more accessible to older Deaf people, and to enable them to demonstrate their commitment to Deaf customers.

**RAD has supported the rights of Deaf sign language users since 1841. RAD's Chief Executive, Dr Jan Sheldon, holds qualifications in care and education. Prior to joining RAD, she was a Director at Skills for Care.**

**[sonus] has provided services to deaf people in Hampshire/ Isle of Wight since 1879 and runs one of the few specialist care homes for Deaf people in the UK. The Chief Executive of [sonus], Liz Jones has qualifications in nursing, care, assessing and is a qualified Sign Language Interpreter. Prior to joining [sonus], she was a Director at Holton Lee, a respite care facility for disabled people and carers.**

The process is simple:



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