

Briefing Paper - proposal to create a new Affiliates membership category

Until recently those working in education, perhaps as communication support workers or Deaf mentors and support workers, were able to join Adept to receive support training and updates on the profession. However, Adept has now closed, and this leaves many without access to a professional association to support them with their professional development, receive updates or access to support or training. As many of these people are not qualified as interpreters or translators or on training courses to become qualified, they are not eligible to join ASLI.

It is proposed that a new membership category, Affiliate member, be created to fill this gap.

Affiliate membership would be aimed at;

- those holding a level 6 BSL language qualification or on a level 6 BSL language course.
- Those that maybe working as CSWs in education or employment settings.
- Those who are just starting out in their career and are considering becoming an interpreter or translators in the future but are not eligible to be student or associate members of ASLI. Perhaps because they are not on an interpreter training program
- Those that may work as deaf relay interpreters/support workers/language intermediaries but do not hold qualifications that allows them to be full or associate members.
- Use BSL as part of their job.
- Those that are no longer students but as yet are unable to be associate members or full members.

Benefits could include

1. Reduced entry fees to ASLI events and accredited courses
2. Access to ASLI regional meetings for members based in UK
3. Access to members 'area of the ASLI website
4. Access to members 'and regional discussion forums via the ASLI website
5. Access to DIN
6. Monthly KYIT
7. Quarterly magazine – Newsli
8. Regular updates on the work of ASLI
9. Access to ASLI's Continuous Professional Development and training
10. Access to Conferences, Annual General Meetings, and Workshops
11. Representation locally, nationally and internationally
12. Access to free webinars
13. Access to guidance and best practice documents

Cost of new membership is suggested to be at £135 per annum (£12.25 per monthly £33.75 quarterly). This puts the pricing point higher than the current supporter plus but less than associate membership. This price is higher than a student membership but expectation is that potential members to the new category would be working in some capacity where they use BSL as part of their job.

The advantages of the new membership to potential members are:

- Access to training,

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- Access to webinars,
- Access to a support network
- Access to regional meetings
- Representation at regional, national and international level
- An opportunity to access best practice through ASLI documents and guidance
- Observing good practice in action

The advantages to ASLI are potentially:

- Encourage good practice
- Opportunity to be inclusive (offering cradle to grave support)
- Dispel myths about ASLI being elitist or a clique
- increased numbers and revenue

Appendix 1 The current options to join ASLI

Full members - open to all those who are qualified as Interpreters, translators, or interpreters for Deafblind people.

Associate members - open to those that are on an interpreter training course that would lead to qualification, registered trainee interpreters/translators, individuals on a training course that on successful completion would be eligible to register as an interpreter for Deafblind people, previous associates.

Student members – those that are on an interpreter training course but not working as interpreters.

Individual supporter – those that support ASLI's aims and objective

Individual supporter plus - those that support ASLI's aims and objectives but receive access to ASLI webinar program.