Deaf Parenting UK is a charity that provides specialised support for Deaf Parents, focusing on helping Deaf parents/parents to be to support their children to achieve positive outcomes across all areas of their lives. DPUK works primarily with Deaf parents whose first language is British Sign Language and who face significant barriers around community inclusion and in developing parenting skills and capacity.

Deaf Parenting UK provides parenting skills training using innovative resources which make it easier for Deaf people who are sign language users to access information that is taken for granted by other parents.

Deaf Parenting UK has been recognised by social care and health services as an expert organisation to approach when there is a need for specialist caseworkers to provide one-to-one support, or advocacy to support professional casework with individual Deaf parents and their families.

Deaf Parenting UK can offer the following services to meet specific needs:

- Parenting Skills Courses/Workshops
- 1:1 Parenting Skills Support
  - A Deaf professional going into the family home, providing direct parenting support;
  - Engaging families in a parenting programme to improve the interaction of Deaf parents and their children

**Deaf Parenting Skills Courses/Workshops**

Deaf Parenting UK have a pool of qualified Parenting Skills Trainers across the UK who can deliver evidence-based accredited programmes for Deaf parents who can offer 1:1 support.

Our trainers are Deaf Professionals who have significant experience working with Deaf adults, children and families. The approach of our trainers addresses parent/child relationships, attachment theory, parenting styles and behaviour management, in addition to key principles for successfully working with parents either in groups or individually.
Benefits and Outcomes

Having several different professionals or organisation involved with a family can add a lot of extra stress for Deaf parents and their families. Deaf Parenting UK can bring together communication support, access to information, and group or 1:1 work to improve parenting capacity.

Commissioning a specialist lead organisation allows better monitoring of the progress of the family and supports more effective integrated working with any other agencies involved. Deaf aware and focused services also offer an opportunity for early intervention which prevents escalation of problems and the need for more intensive and costly services at a later stage. Provision of deaf focused parenting support improves the engagement of Deaf parents and gives them supportive access to formal and informal learning from peers.

Target outcomes:

1. Improved self-esteem, confidence and access to information for Deaf parents
2. Improved understanding of parenting styles and how to meet them
3. Improved outcomes for children including self-esteem, educational attainment, community inclusion and emotional and physical health.
4. Increased parenting skills in communication and boundary setting
5. Improved awareness of how to build positive relationships within the family and wider community
6. Improved social support – reduction in social isolation and improved access to networks and services.

Costs:

1:1 support: £190.00 per two hour sessions per family – this cost is exclusive of travel expenses.

Parenting skills Workshop Programme: £950.00 per head for minimum of 6 deaf parents for 12 weeks parenting programme. The cost is inclusive of the following but is exclusive of travel:

- Planning and Preparation of parenting programmes and Trainer Assistance
- 2 hour workshop per week
- Room Rental
- Crèche facilities
- Refreshments
- Resources (Teaching materials/handouts/course information)
- Report writing including evaluation and feedback etc

We would be very glad to further discuss the services that DPUK can offer.

Regards,

Nicole Campbell
Project Coordinator
Deaf Parenting UK
Facts:

1. 90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents.

2. Because of communication issues within the home and at school deaf children often lack access to basic information in the area of personal, social and health, such as growing up, sex education, pregnancy and parenting.

3. However as Deaf children grow up into adults and become parents few resources and support are available to them in an accessible format.

4. Deaf Adults have a 90% chance of having hearing children and access is a real issue. Services offered to Deaf Parents are sometimes non-existent, very limited or patchy as compared to those available to hearing parents.

5. Deaf parents are unable to access mainstream parenting organisation as a result of unmet communication needs and lack of Deaf Parenting Awareness. This in turn can lead to downward spirals or family breakdown.