I am writing on behalf of Chris Daniels to respond to your information request:

1. Do you provide funding for parents of deaf/hearing impaired children to access sign language training?

There is no funding “ring fenced” for enabling parents to use sign language with their children. However, there are providers through the Further Education colleges in most Authorities, and both Audiology clinics would give details of courses there.

   a) If yes, up to what British Sign Language (BSL) level do you fund (i.e. Level 1, 2 or 3)?
   b) Is there a charge to parents to access sign language training? If yes, please give details.
   c) What criteria must be met to obtain funding?
   d) Is childcare provided for parents learning BSL?
   e) Is funding available for both parents to learn BSL?

2. Have you developed any proposals to enable parents to use personal budgets to access BSL courses?

   No

3. Do you have a named contact within your local authority for families of deaf/hearing impaired children who are interested in learning sign language?

   If yes, please give details.

   Foxborough school have run classes for parents to help them to learn to sign and have a Deaf Role Model/Advocate who regularly visits the school (it used to be weekly).

   Teachers of the deaf /SPALT would use and encourage signs with pre-school families where appropriate and may provide some materials to support vocabulary in the home.

   Marilyn Ford is the named contact in the Berkshire SCS. Marilyn has accessed quite a lot of information from ndcs etc e.g. Sign language cards to support swimming lessons.

   There are now courses on line.

4. Have you funded a sign language course specifically aimed at families (such as a Family Sign Language* course) in the past three years?

   No

5. Do you currently have any proposals to fund a sign language course specifically aimed at families in the next 12 months?

   No
6. Do you currently provide information to parents of deaf/hearing impaired children where they can learn BSL within the local authority or nearby?

The number of parents who need a higher level of sign language to communicate as the main mode for their children once they are of school age is relatively small in the Authority. Most learn as a “bridge” before switch on of cochlear implants/optimum use of implants. Some parents use supplementary signs for oral children but these are quite rare and tend again to drop off once a child is school age. Where sign is one of the main modes of communication or the main mode most children attend either Foxborough school/Emmbrook school (both Primaries) or go out of county

7. If yes to question 6, in what form is this information?

8. Do you have any other sources of support to provide families with access to opportunities to learn BSL?
   No other than Teacher of the Deaf support qualified to Level 1 and two staff to Level 2
   Foxborough school which is a primary resourced school for deaf children using sign

9. Do you have a written policy around BSL learning for families? If yes, please attach to this response.
   SCS has a Communication policy rather than a BSL policy

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

   Information Management Team Manager
   Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
   Town Hall, St Ives Road
   Maidenhead
   SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk
We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels
Information Management Officer
Legal Department
Corporate Directorate
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St.Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

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Information Management Feedback Form

FOI65600

1) How would you rate our performance in relation to processing your request:
   Excellent      Good         Fair         Poor

   If you have answered Fair or Poor please suggest how we can improve:
2) Did you receive the response to your request within the advised timescale? Yes/No

3) Did the response meet your needs? Yes/No
   If No, why was that?

4) Prior to submitting your request did you search RBWM's website? Yes/No
   If Yes, why did you then need to submit a request (Highlight all that apply)?
   - Information required not found
   - Information found out of date
   - Information not in required format
   - Information insufficient to meet need
   - Other please specify:

   If No, why was that?
5) Please add any further comments that would help us improve our service:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form –

your feedback is appreciated.