Our Space
The Story So Far?

Aim
• Exploring spaces to bring Deaf people together to promote preventive solutions towards health.

Objectives
• The development of a Community of Practice.
• Engagement with members of the community.
• Creating a space to bring Deaf people together.
• Working with RAD to create workshops as a trial and develop a model of good practice.
• Use different media eg. website, Deaf Sussex Today magazine
• Curriculum transfer to a course of Occupational Therapists.

Community of Practice
• A partnership between all of us:
  • Community members
  • Third sector organisations
  • Community leaders
  • Academics
### The ‘Spaces’
- www.deafsussexhistory.com
- A festival on 15th May 2010 at Hamilton Lodge School organised by RAD.
- Three workshops to promote health and wellbeing in the community in Eastbourne, Brighton and Worthing in September, October, and November.
- Bringing information on health and wellbeing through Deaf Sussex Today magazine.

### How has the Our Space meeting helped?
- Josh Cameron (Action Research)/Gavin Lilley (Positive Action)
- John Lilley (Deaf History and Archiving)
- Hamish Rosie (Deaf Arts)
- Iain Poplett (LGBT history)/ Kath Browne (LGBT situation today)

### What have we learnt?
- **Action research**
  - Every time we meet, it contributes to a process of learning and our actions is research itself. The continued cycle of listening/understanding/doing.
- **Positive Action**
  - It is up to us to make a difference. There is a constant struggle to make the Deaf experience clear to Others. How do we make our message clear to those who do not understand what it means to be Deaf?
- **Deaf History**
  - We are losing our history today. Our evidence in written form is being chucked in the bin and our BSL narratives are left unrecorded. It will not be possible to look back onto the past, or even today, and remember we were here.
- **Deaf Arts**
  - Deaf Arts is an important medium to communicate what is difficult to understand, clear. Society may not be able to understand Deaf lives but they can understand sculpture, painting, dance, theatre.
• Deaf health (including LGBT)

• Being Deaf is bad for your health! The increasing in mainstreaming services has potentially led Deaf people to feel disenfranchised.

• There needs to be a balance between interventions for Deaf people and access to mainstream services. These solutions should be led by Deaf people themselves as role models, clear communicators, activists.

Theorising The Deaf Space

Questions?

• Which part of the learning do you feel is useful to you and why?

• Is there anything else we should have learnt or be learning?

• What else do we need to talk about? (As a presentation, discussion, activity)
What now?

- Are you interested in Deaf history? Talk to John.
- Are you interested in making an submission of art work? Talk to Simon.
- Are you interested in being part of a workshop? Talking to Simon/Gavin.
- Do you want to write something in DST? Talk to Diana Neal.
- Do you want to help the community to learn something new and present at the Our Space meeting? Talk to John.

Workshops:
- Eastbourne - 26th September, Eastbourne Deaf Club.
- Brighton - October, tbc
- Worthing - November, tbc
- Deaf Culture Festival
  - Hamilton Lodge School - 15th May 2010
- Our Space meetings
  - September to November; January to March

Signall 2 project

- Recording Deaf people’s narratives to explore ‘international perspectives on deafness’.
- Will be part of an on line learning course based in Ireland, available across Europe.