

# Deafblind Scotland Policy on Closure Strategy



Deafblind Scotland vision – “A Society in which deafblind people have the permanent support and recognition to be equal citizens”

## What do we mean by “Closure Strategy”

Deafblind Scotland’s Closure Strategy is the approach and process Deafblind Scotland will adopt if, for whatever reason, it ceases to operate.

## The Policy

Because of the extreme isolation caused by deafblindness many deafblind people live in very vulnerable circumstances, either living alone or with others in the community.

Should Deafblind Scotland cease to operate, for whatever reason, the implications for dual sensory impaired service-users would be highly significant. However, service users would continue to require access to communication, access to information and access to mobility support.

- Deafblind Scotland would inform all purchasing authorities and Health Boards of its position with regard to cessation of operation, in a timeous fashion when it becomes clear that Deafblind Scotland will cease to operate, (or parts of Deafblind Scotland thereof).
- Deafblind Scotland would provide Social Work and other relevant agencies with information and reports on the specific needs of those deafblind people, to whom it provides a service.
- Deafblind Scotland would inform Social Work and other relevant agencies regarding the training needs for those who come into contact with deafblind people professionally.
- Deafblind Scotland would write to families and carers involved with deafblind service-users.
- Deafblind Scotland will work with Social Work staff, and staff from any future provider of services to ensure minimal confusion and upset for the service users. This will ensure, as much as possible, continued appropriate service provisions for deafblind people and would require to take the following specialised communication and information needs into consideration: British Sign Language (BSL), adapted hands-on BSL for service-users, adapted BSL in confined space for service-users with Ushers Syndrome, Deafblind Manual, Spartan (Block), Lip-Pattern, Braille, Moon, Large Print, Audio Tapes.
- Deafblind Scotland staff will work with Social Work staff, future provider of services staff, services users and their families or advocates

to establish a Handover Schedule which will ensure continued service provision and minimal disruption for the service user.