**Press Release for Impact Report 2020**

**SignHealth celebrates a year of improving Deaf people’s health and wellbeing**

SignHealth is an award-winning charity that provides vital health and wellbeing services to Deaf people across the UK. Today they have launched their 2019/20 impact report, which celebrates a variety of successes, including:

* Won the Board Diversity and Inclusivity Award at the 2019 UK Charity Governance Awards. They have continued to recruit more Deaf staff and have created an inclusive environment by ensuring that all hearing staff achieve at least level 2 in British Sign Language (BSL).
* Provided exceptional support during the Coronavirus pandemic. In particular, they have:
	+ Campaigned with other charities to improve the amount of information available in BSL.
	+ Translated Public Health England guidance and daily government press briefings into BSL videos, which have provided a reliable and accessible source of information for the Deaf community.
	+ Launched BSL Health Access with Interpreter Now, a free service that provides access to an interpreter during healthcare situations.
* Joined forces with Shout to launch a Crisis Text Service, which provides free and immediate crisis support for Deaf people.

SignHealth’s services have also gone from strength to strength, between April 2019 and March 2020 they have:

* Received 441 referrals for psychological therapy
	+ Psychological therapy currently has a ‘reliable improvement’ rate of 61%, compared to the NHS target of 50%
* Supported 120 Deaf domestic abuse victims and rehomed 8 families, as well as providing 313 children and young people with healthy relationships training.
	+ Deaf women are twice more likely and Deaf children three times more likely to experience domestic abuse, and yet SignHealth runs the UK's only Deaf Domestic Abuse Service.
* Continued to improve their person-centred social care provision, which provides 30 residential care home places and an outreach service.

James Watson O’Neill, CEO: "The whole point of SignHealth is to improve deaf people's health and wellbeing so it is fantastic to see our impact in achieving that set out so clearly here. I am very proud of the work we do and of our relationships with other organisations as we will only achieve our goal by working in partnership."

SignHealth provides a wide variety of services, often to Deaf people with complex needs who have been unable to sufficiently access healthcare through the NHS or other support services. The charity’s work is vital to the health and wellbeing of Deaf people across the UK and their 2019/20 impact report reflects a successful and varied year.

**Notes to editor**

**Contact**

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**About SignHealth**

SignHealth is the Deaf health charity led by Deaf people at all levels of the organisation. We are dedicated to making sure Deaf people get equitable access to healthcare and health information and we provide services to improve Deaf people’s health and wellbeing.

We have media-trained Deaf people who use British Sign Language to communicate, as well as access to qualified BSL interpreters, ready to be interviewed to support this statement.

For more information about SignHealth, visit www.signhealth.org.uk and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook at: @SignHealth