



Sunday 11th October 2026 | Beccbury 4 | 11:00 - 12:30

Speaker: Hannah Perrin, BSc MA PGCHE PGDipHE PhD FHEA

Title: Inclusive Practice - British Sign Language and Deaf Awareness for Nursing Staff



Hannah is an educator, coach, and researcher in education, leadership, and personal development. Her career spans frontline practice management, teaching at the Royal Veterinary College, and postgraduate study, with an MA and PhD in Veterinary Education focusing on professional identity. She has consulted widely across the sector and as Learning & Development Manager at VMG, created and led the Certificate and Diploma in Veterinary Leadership and Management programme supporting over 500 students through their qualifications. She now teaches at Lancashire and Harper Adams, and in 2024 founded her CPD company, Clarity Professional, to help veterinary people grow in careers that bring them joy.

Synopsis:

Did you know that in the UK:

- Over 12 million people are Deaf or have hearing loss?
- 1.2 million people cannot hear most conversational speech?
- 150,000 people are primary British Sign Language users?

How many of these people are your clients, colleagues, or students?

The aim of this workshop is to help you make your veterinary services more accessible. By learning the basics of British Sign Language and fingerspelling and being more aware of how to communicate with people who are Deaf or have hearing loss, you will be able to better serve the people you interact with every day. This workshop is for all veterinary nursing staff and students interested in learning how to communicate effectively and empathetically with people who are Deaf or have hearing loss. Covering a sign vocabulary of greetings and introductions, animals, and some useful signs and phrases; as well as the obligations of a workplace around accessibility; and an overview of the technological aids, apps and communication support available both in-person and online, you'll learn some really simple changes to implement in your workplace straight away. By the end, you'll feel more confident to welcome Deaf clients to your practice and provide inclusive, compassionate care at every stage.

Learning Objectives:

1. Reflect on how to implement ways to make their practice and consults more Deaf-friendly
2. Be able to welcome a client; offer help; and introduce themselves and their role in British Sign Language
3. Be able to communicate, recognise, and respond to some basic useful signs and phrases in British Sign Language