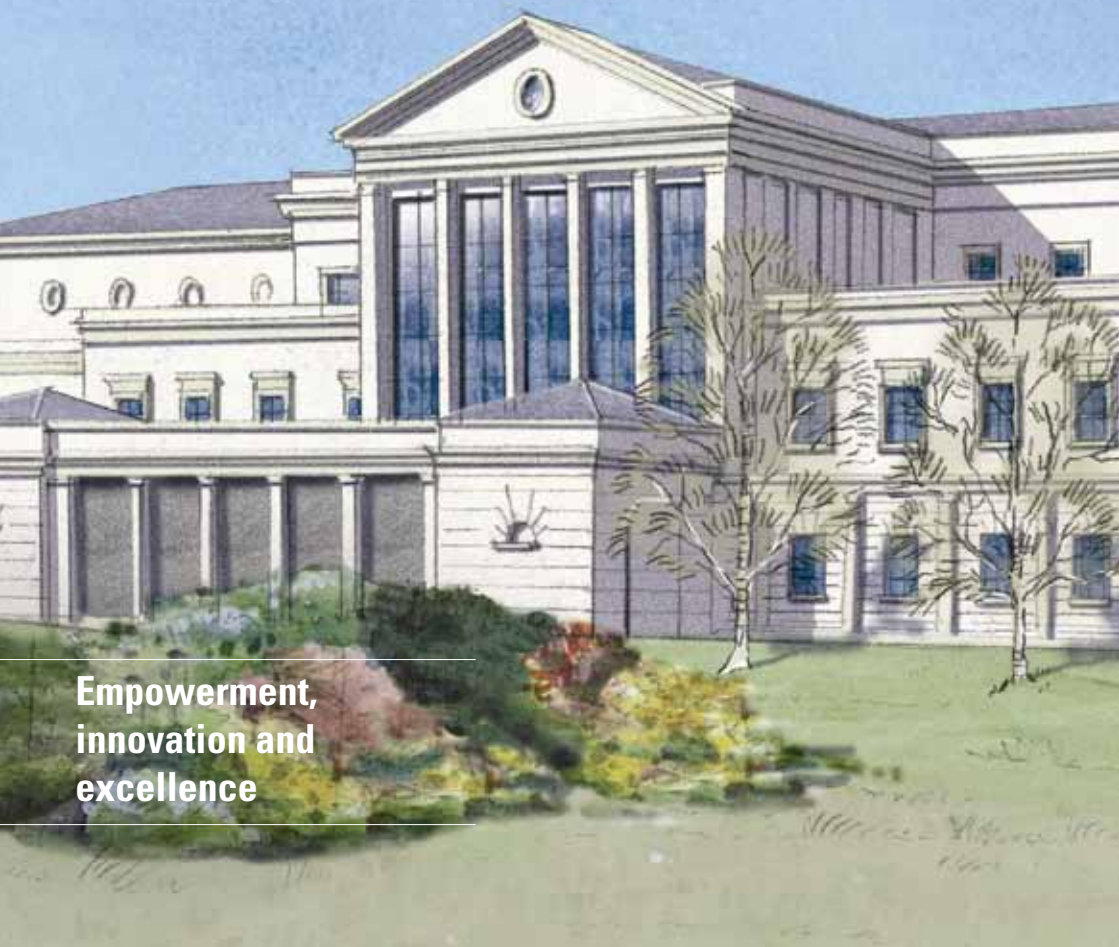


New Secure Deaf Mental Health Service



**Empowerment,
innovation and
excellence**

A charity leading innovation in mental health



**St Andrew's
HEALTHCARE**

Introduction

St Andrew's Healthcare, the UK's largest not for profit mental health care charity, has developed a new specialist service for Deaf men with mental health problems who require care in conditions of medium security. The service is located within a new state of the art medium secure facility in Northampton. The service has been developed in partnership with the UK's leading deaf mental health charity; SignHealth.

Service Philosophy

High-quality, safe care is delivered in a culturally competent and linguistically appropriate way. The first language of the service is British Sign Language (BSL) and the service promotes the importance of appropriate communication together with respect for and understanding of Deaf culture. It is recognised that each service user and staff member brings their own unique skills and experiences to the service. They are empowered to make appropriate use of these and to acquire new skills and strengths. The service learns from and adds to the existing evidence-base regarding interventions for this service user group.

Another example of St Andrew's Healthcare developing and delivering bespoke mental health services through innovation and investment.

Care and Treatment

A multi-disciplinary team works with each service user to optimise their level of functioning, promote recovery and manage the risks they present.

All staff working in the service receive ongoing training in British Sign Language (BSL) as part of their job role and Deaf staff have been actively recruited to all positions within the service. Fully qualified, and specifically trained, BSL interpreters are embedded within the service and used for formal communications with Deaf service users/ staff if appropriate.

In addition to milieu, nursing, occupational, social, educational and pharmacological therapies, service users also receive specific individual and group cognitive-behaviourally based treatment interventions. Depending upon individual need these may include: psychoeducation, communication skills enhancement, relapse prevention, substance abuse prevention and offence specific interventions focused on reducing risk and criminogenic factors.

Comprehensive care planning underpins the service user journey through the service and this also includes rigorous risk assessment and management.

Regular use of structured professional judgement risk assessment tools will help to ensure that each service user's risks are fully identified, characterised and managed. The routine use of outcome measures allow each individual service user's progress to be monitored and optimised as well as providing feedback on service quality.



Admission criteria

Most of those suitable for this service will have had substantial hearing impairment since an early age. Many of these will use a sign language, such as British Sign Language (BSL), as their primary communication method and may also consider themselves as belonging to a distinct Deaf culture. However, the essential requirement is whether or not they are likely to benefit from the care provided by the service. As a guide, the presence of the following factors suggests that a person may be suitable for this service:

- Deaf men who are of working age
- Evidence of/suspected mental health problems (including mental illness, learning disability, acquired brain injury, autistic spectrum conditions and personality disorder)
- Evidence of risk to others such that they can only be managed in conditions of medium security
- Detained/eligible for detention under the Mental Health Act (MHA)
- Hearing impairment.

Why choose us?

Forensic expertise. St Andrew's Healthcare has a long established history of providing forensic services, and as such has a wealth of forensic expertise. Admitting and treating some of the country's most challenging mentally disordered people with successful outcomes has been the cornerstone to building successful futures.

Geographical positioning. The deaf service at St Andrew's Healthcare in Northampton provides the only medium secure service for deaf men outside of the North West of England. By being located in Northampton, the service is ideally placed at the centre of the country and will provide service users with increased opportunity to maintain links with their home area, family and friends.

Charitable status. As a charity, St Andrew's Healthcare is in a unique position to reinvest any surpluses back into developing high-quality specialist services.

Wealth of experience. Building upon 170 years of experience in providing high-quality care for mentally disordered people, this new service represents St Andrew's commitment to innovation and leading the way in specialist mental healthcare.

To find out more about this new service or to make a referral:

Call our freephone enquiries line on 0800 434 6690

Email: enquiries@standrew.co.uk

Dr Simon Gibbon, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Deaf Service

on 01604 616729, (Typetalk 18001 01604 606729) SMS 07771 353842 or email sgibbon@standrew.co.uk



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HEALTHCARE

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