

## BSL ENABLING Sharon Brown –Testimonial

I am pleased to support Sharon Brown's nomination for a business award and would recommend the services of BSL enabling.

Although Sharon's work is primarily working with people who are hearing impaired or profoundly deaf she is able to draw on her diverse work skills and life experience to meet the needs of clients who may have complex needs and a dual disability.

To support Sharon's nomination I would like to give an example of her work with a young mother who has a learning disability and a child whose development and speech is delayed. The child has as yet undiagnosed but possibly a learning disability, as well as possibly being an elective mute.

When Sharon first worked with this lady she had very low self-esteem. The lady had a chaotic life and felt professionals and others criticised her home and parenting skills; She was focussed on things she could not do but said, 'She loved being a mum'. This was where Sharon's skills were used as a 'way in' to establish a positive working relationship with the client; liaising with family support groups and using simple signs to develop 'mum's confidence with her daughter and work with services.

Sharon then worked with the client on personal development engaging her in the community and encouraging her to focus on herself and her needs. As a result there was a marked change in the client's self awareness and in time her confidence increased.

Sharon's sensitive and developmental approach to working firstly on the lady's self esteem restored her confidence in professionals and established the grounds for her to work together and respectfully on improving home management skills and to create systems for financial management and engage with professionals as well as be involved in problem-solving situations. The lady's need for support in key areas of daily living continues but she has been 'enabled' by Sharon to take control of aspects of her life and recognise her own strengths and ability.

This example highlights only one example of the positive approach and success of BSL Enabling when Sharon is working with clients. It is a recommendation that is not given lightly and is well deserved.

(Health and Social Care Professional)