

## **The motivation for male interpreters to work in mental health settings and their experiences in this specialist domain.**

Mental health interpreting can be a challenging domain to work in for a variety of reasons. One such challenge is that Sign Language interpreters are effectively expected to interpret within two domains but in only one location – a healthcare setting and employment setting. This expectation arises because Sign Language interpreters are working with Deaf people from a broad spectrum of communities who are receiving treatment for their mental health condition and a range of Deaf people working to serve the patients. Both parties use the services of a Sign Language interpreter but how do these services differ to meet the needs of the Deaf individuals?

As an interpreter working in the field of mental health, I have observed a high proportion of the interpreters in the service I work in to be male. In the UK, approximately 20% of registered interpreters are male, so why do I encounter a high percentage working in mental health settings? What is the attraction to this domain? How does this compare to other domains? What are the experiences of the men in this domain?

Based on interviews and a questionnaire, I will present on two main areas. Firstly, the motivations for men to engage in work within mental health settings and secondly, their experiences in this specialist domain.