

# YouthAdvance



**Royal Association  
for Deaf people**

## **Empowering deaf children and young people with the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.**

Growing up in a hearing world can be isolating and challenging for deaf children and young people. Many face barriers in education, social settings, and even within their own families when communication and understanding are limited.

Our YouthAdvance service is designed to bridge these gaps and provide deaf young people with the tools, support and confidence to thrive. This service is also designed to prevent where possible deaf children and young people from becoming NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Through tailored programmes, one-to-one mentoring and community initiatives, YouthAdvance helps young deaf people to unlock their full potential. We want to empower the next generation of deaf leaders, achievers and changemakers.

## **How can the YouthAdvance service help me?**

YouthAdvance can help you navigate the unique challenges of growing up deaf by providing a range of support services that are specifically designed for your needs.

We understand that every young person is different, which is why we offer flexible support tailored to individual goals, abilities and circumstances.

We can support with:

- Befriending – one-to-one support to build important life skills and develop independence
- In-school programmes to improve engagement and participation and help achieve learning outcomes
- Careers advice – provided by qualified careers advisors, in schools or other community locations
- Wellbeing support – 1:1 or in groups
- Advocacy – ensuring that young people's views and wishes are considered
- Mentoring – safe support that encourages and inspires; building confidence and identity
- Training and development to support with life skills or learning and training

**For BSL**





## What we can help with

RAD can help with:

- Deaf students who feel excluded or misunderstood in their schools, leading to disengagement or frustration.
- Young people experiencing bullying due to communication differences or being deaf.
- Families who struggle to provide the right support for their deaf children because of a lack of knowledge about deaf culture or sign language.
- Limited access to career advice that caters specifically to the needs of deaf young people, leaving them unsure about future opportunities.
- Young people with low confidence who find it challenging to advocate for themselves in education or healthcare settings.
- Social isolation due to a lack of opportunities to meet and connect with other deaf young people.
- Barriers to understanding health and wellbeing information, leading to unmanaged stress or mental health challenges.

## How we can help

RAD can help with:

- Organising workshops in schools to raise awareness of deaf culture and support young people in building relationships with their hearing peers.
- Helping deaf young people access interpreters or communication support during career guidance sessions or job interviews.
- One-to-one mentoring and wellbeing support – providing positive role models to guide young people through personal challenges, and help build skills such as assertiveness, goal setting and self-advocacy.
- Reducing social isolation through organised events, group activities or holiday programmes where deaf young people can make new friends in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Offering bespoke training for families to help them better support their deaf child's educational and social development.
- Supporting young people during important meetings with school staff or healthcare professionals to ensure their voice is heard.
- Helping you prepare for key transitions, such as moving from school to college, starting a job or living independently for the first time.
- Delivering careers advice to help young deaf people identify career paths, apply for jobs and prepare for interviews.
- Coaching on developing important life skills: such as how to manage money, use public transport or live independently.



## How it works



If you want to use our YouthAdvance service, you need to complete a referral form on our website.



One of our team will contact you within five working days to understand your situation and provide tailored assistance.



We believe in empowering young deaf people to shape their own futures, so our team will work closely with you to create a support plan that fits your goals.

**To find out more about RAD's YouthAdvance service, please contact us via a referral form on our website:**





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