# DEAFAX   ICT INNOVATION AND RESEARCH UNIT

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

## DISSEMINATION OF PAST PROJECTS

**1.Money Matters - is a highly visual interactive DVD addressing the issues of understanding finance for those young deaf people from the Black and Ethnic Minorities. This project has now been completed. It was sponsored by the Abbey Charitable Trust.**

**2. New Horizons - Six modules have been developed covering   travel, literacy, database and computer information, good practice guide and software review, numeracy and music. It was sponsored by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.**

**3. Deaf Graduates – this pilot project studied the impact of ICT, or otherwise, on the students' learning, communication and careers. It was sponsored and commissioned by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), TechDis Service of the Higher Education Academy.**

**4. Mobile phone Video Calling Technology was a significant piece of research carried out showing the need for using this type of visual communication with deaf people and how a one handed sign language can be used. The first phase was sponsored by Hutchinson 3G.**

**5. The Credit Crunch- this project supported and added value to the Money Matters programme- see 1. The Abbey Charitable Trust funded this project.**

**6.Videonet International - this internet video conferencing network was developed between individuals, schools and organisations using different systems such as – Webex, iVisit, Camfrog, ViaVideo, MSN and Skype. The first phase of this project was sponsored by the Clare Milne Trust.**

**7. Race-on-line/Race to ICT work constitutes the Deafax London work concerning Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities Deaf people and their use of ICT modules to assist with Essential English, identity and cultural diversity and interactive communication skills development for employment. The project was sponsored by the Bridge House Trust and the City Parochial Foundation.**

**8. What do you want? This looked at ways to increase the success rate and opportunities for young deaf learners by using ICT. Webcams were used to link up 6 schools so that they share curriculum activities. This programme has been linked to the Virtual Learning Academy. It was sponsored by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.**

**9. The significance of ICT for the reading, writing and communication skills of deaf People. This research programme was sponsored by Leverhulme Trust from April 2007 to October 2009.The Summary and Full Report are available on request.**

# ENTERPRISES BEING EXPLORED AND DEVELOPED

**10. Deafax Virtual Learning is being developed with AVERIL in order to move into the important area of online distance learning for local, regional, national and international purposes.**

**11. DeafText /Exe Libris – this is a bespoke software system which was originally developed by Exeter University to help overseas students to gain an acceptable standard of English. The essence of the system is to input text and then strip it down to the bare essentials.**

**12. UK Master Teachers of the Deaf Programme-this will follow the work undertaken in the USA by Professor Harold Johnson –see www.deafed.net .AVERIL will be exploring programmes which link centres of teacher training in deaf education.**

**13. Speech Recognition Technology- the intention is to explore the use of different forms of SR software in the classroom involving teachers, deaf children and others with speech challenges. Also link with this Automatic Text Display which uses computer based speech recognition of teacher's speech in the education of deaf children.**

**14. Healthy Living through Sport –the aim is to develop a series of ICT modules around activities which can be used by the Deaf Sports Football Foundation which is part of the AVERIL partners.**

**15. Digital Emotional Subtitling (DES)-from research carried out into subtitling some 80% of those using it are not deaf or hard of hearing. DES will bring the text alive via colour, print, size etc.**

**16. Deaf Babies/Pre-School Deaf Children-the use of touch screen technology for improving language acquisition is being investigated.**

**17. Virtual Signing Avatar – to aid communication for deaf people who use BSL, ASL etc. Consult with Dr Kirsty Crombie- Smith and other interested parties about the value of this technology.**

**18. Deafax China Project-this would involve Dr Daguo Li of the University of Reading ,AVERIL and the Deaf Innovation & Research Unit.**

**19. Home Access to Learning Programme –continue to work with parents, children and young people within the home environment with the specialised use of ICT, advice, guidance, working with respective schools to enhance learning and improve reading, writing, communication and essential life skills. Explore this enterprise with Microlink .**

**20. Training, Work, Interaction and ICT for Deaf Young People. We are exploring how Deafax can work in partnership, on a social inclusion project, with Professor Christian Heath from the School of Management, Work, Interaction and Technology, Kings College, London.**

**21. Digital Divide and the Internet" collaborate with Professor Gill Valentine (Author of "The role of the Internet to Deaf People's inclusion in the Information Society).**

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**Deafax Mission Statement: *"Empowering deaf people of all ages to lead fulfilling lives through the use of innovative communications technologies"***