

Sally Featon

Education and Therapy Assistant



Personal Profile

In 2000, whilst doing my Performing Arts degree I visited Beaumont College; a specialist college for young people with a range of complex needs. I was transformed when watching one of the most powerful pieces of theatre I had ever seen, performed by the students at the college.

“Now I have a voice, I have the Power to be Powerful” was one of the first things that I ever heard from an AAC user; this moment has stayed with me to this day and has driven me to where I am now in my career.

As a student, I began my career in SEN as a volunteer at the college; my enthusiasm to support and nurture these young people grew so much so, after graduating, I became a casual staff member. I then worked my way up the educational ladder becoming a Learning Support Assistant and I started teaching sessions in 2014, specialising in Performing Arts, Communication and the Student Union.

I am a Makaton Tutor and I am able to deliver a wide range of Makaton courses suitable for staff, service users, families and carers. My passion for becoming a Makaton Tutor, was another key moment dating back to that performance in 2000. It was a signed performance of a song; It brought me to tears; I was mesmerised. In 2013, a colleague and I set up SignOutLoud® with the aim to inspire our community to learn and embrace Makaton signing through popular music. SignOutLoud® have presented a number of papers at both National and International conferences and we were highly commended under the Outstanding Community Inclusion category at the Communication Matters Awards in 2019.

I have an excellent track-record of supporting and encouraging young people to achieve their true potential having consistently received positive feedback both as a Tutor and a Learning Support Assistant and I have proven myself to be caring, inspirational and dedicated individual.

I am confident in creating a variety of resources, both low tech and high tech and I am motivated and quick to learn or adapt to new/less familiar programs.

I have taken responsibility for the assessment and marking of the City and Guilds AAC accreditation and I am a Gold Arts Award Advisor.

I have supported and encouraged individuals to build on their confidence through the arts and I have been the Director for the Theatre Company, creating issue based performances; including the creation and devising of scripts and films (using iMovie) to heighten performance quality and used my own skills to help learners write their own music, perform live (which I accompanied on the piano) and have worked with others across a Multi-Disciplinary team to ensure the consistent running of the production process

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I have received annual safeguarding training and am fully aware of the procedure that is to be followed to ensure confidentiality and the safety of vulnerable children and adults including disclosure and continuous support and legislation relating to GDPR.

I have volunteered at summer play schemes for children of all abilities and I am also a trustee for the charity 1Voice which provides many opportunities for people of any age who use communication aids, to network and support each other.

I believe that having a Person-Centred approach is essential in order to differentiate and meet the needs of the people I work with; to be sensitive to their needs and to provide them with opportunities to grow and progress and to make plans for their future, hopes, dreams and aspirations

Professional Qualifications

2017 – [Trinity Arts Award](#) - Gold Arts Award Advisor (also Explore, Discover, Bronze and Silver)

2010 – [The Makaton Charity](#) - Makaton Regional Tutor

2010 [Lancaster & Morecambe College](#) PGCE Post Compulsory (16+) in Further Education (part time course – modules completed)

TS1301: Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector

TS1302: Teaching and Reflecting on Own Practise

TS1303: Aligning Teaching, Learning and Assessment

TS4303: Professional Values and Inclusive Practise

2008 [The Adult College, Lancaster OCNW](#) – Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) – Pass

2004 – [City & Guilds](#) Learning Support Certificate - Level 3

1998 – 2001 [Lancaster University \(St Martin's College\)](#) – BA Hons Performing Arts (Drama)

Training Received:

2021 - Data Protection including GDPR / Food Safety Level 2 / GDPR Advanced / Health & Safety / Immunisation & Vaccines / Modern Slavery Act / Safeguarding & Protection of Adults

2020 - Prevent, Female Genital Mutilation, Neurological differences for Students with ASD, The Makaton® Charity - Using Makaton® with Singing / Epilepsy / Fluids & Nutrition / Safeguarding Children / Child Exploitation / Fire Awareness / Infection Prevention & Control / Medication Administration Awareness / Covid-19 / Moving & Handling / Basic Life Support

2019 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) / Diabetes Awareness / MCA & DoLS / Equality & Diversity / Documentation & Record Keeping / Mental Health, Autism Awareness, Sensory and Social Stories

2018 – The Makaton® Charity – Makaton Safeguarding Train the Trainer, Welcome to Acupressure, Dementia Hub

2009 – The Makaton® Charity Makaton Enhancement Workshop (stage 5-8 & AV), The Makaton® Charity Foundation Workshop (stage 1-4 & AV)

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(Familiarity/Past Training with:)

Boardmaker / TaSSeLs / Video Editing / Grid 3 Wordpower / Intensive Interaction / Vantage / Vanguard / Dynavox: 3100, IV, V, Vmax / Tobii Dynavox / LLL / Khorus / Signalong
Clicker 6/ Objects of reference / PECS / Pictello,
Language development

Presentations:

Academic Papers presented at conference & in journals in the UK and internationally.

Paper Title	Author / Presenter	Conference	Year
Come on "Sign Out Loud"	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	Communication Matters	2014
Come on "Sign Out Loud"	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	CM post conference Dinner	2015
COME ON WORLD; LET'S SIGN OUT LOUD!!!	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	ISAAC Canada	2016
COME ON WORLD; LET'S SIGN OUT LOUD!!!	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	Communication Matters	2016
COME ON WORLD; LET'S SIGN OUT LOUD!!!	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	ECERAAC Romania	2017
It's your turn to Sign Out Loud! (CMROCKS)	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	Communication Matters	2018
Strictly Lost in Translation	Sally Featon & Kate McCallum	Communication Matters	2019

Employment History

[ATtherapy – January 2021 – Present](#)

Education and Therapy Assistant – I am employed at ATtherapy to support individuals with complex communication impairment. I bring together my knowledge of education and teaching processes alongside my fun and outgoing personality to provide motivating and engaging activities to develop each and every student I support.

[Beaumont College – February 2014 – Present](#)

Tutor – I am employed at Beaumont College as a multidisciplinary tutor. Over the years I have provided educational programmes to teach young adults with complex needs and communication difficulties specialising in Creative & Performing Arts. Each year I develop subjects to make them suitable for individuals so that they are accessible to all, bringing together my passion for the arts alongside my enthusiasm for empowering student voice to create issue-based performances.

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[Sign Out Loud Ltd – October 2013 – Present](#)

Managing Director – Sign Out Loud started in October 2013 but became a Limited company in 2020.

I use my knowledge of the Makaton vocabulary (as a Makaton Tutor), knowledge of language and education (through teaching and support work) and performance skills in combination and the aim of the company is to inspire the community to learn and embrace Makaton signing. Predominantly this teaching is done through the medium of music. Sign Out Loud's popularity has grown over the years and has become a highly successful community initiative and the company are involved in a number of events throughout the year.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, currently all our events, parties and training are being held remotely.

As well as leading the face-to-face sessions, I translate, direct, film and edit video translations which are uploaded on our popular social media page. We have delivered numerous conference papers in the UK and were invited to present at international specialist AAC conferences in Canada and Romania. We were recognised and Highly Commended at the Communication Matters Awards in 2019 for Outstanding Community Inclusion.

[Makaton Tutor – April 2010 – Present](#)

I am a Qualified Makaton Tutor, and I can deliver a wide range of Makaton courses suitable for staff, service users, families and carers.

[Beaumont College – November 2001 – 2014](#)

Learning Support Worker – I was employed to work under the direction of a lecturer to provide direct support for students and to adapt teaching and learning materials so that they were accessible to individuals. I also contributed to the assessment of students and provided cover in the absence of lecturers.

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