Deaf people with dementia and their carers: communicating experiences, attitudes and service provision

Being Deaf

- Deaf with a capital 'D'

- 1 in 6 deaf and hard of hearing people

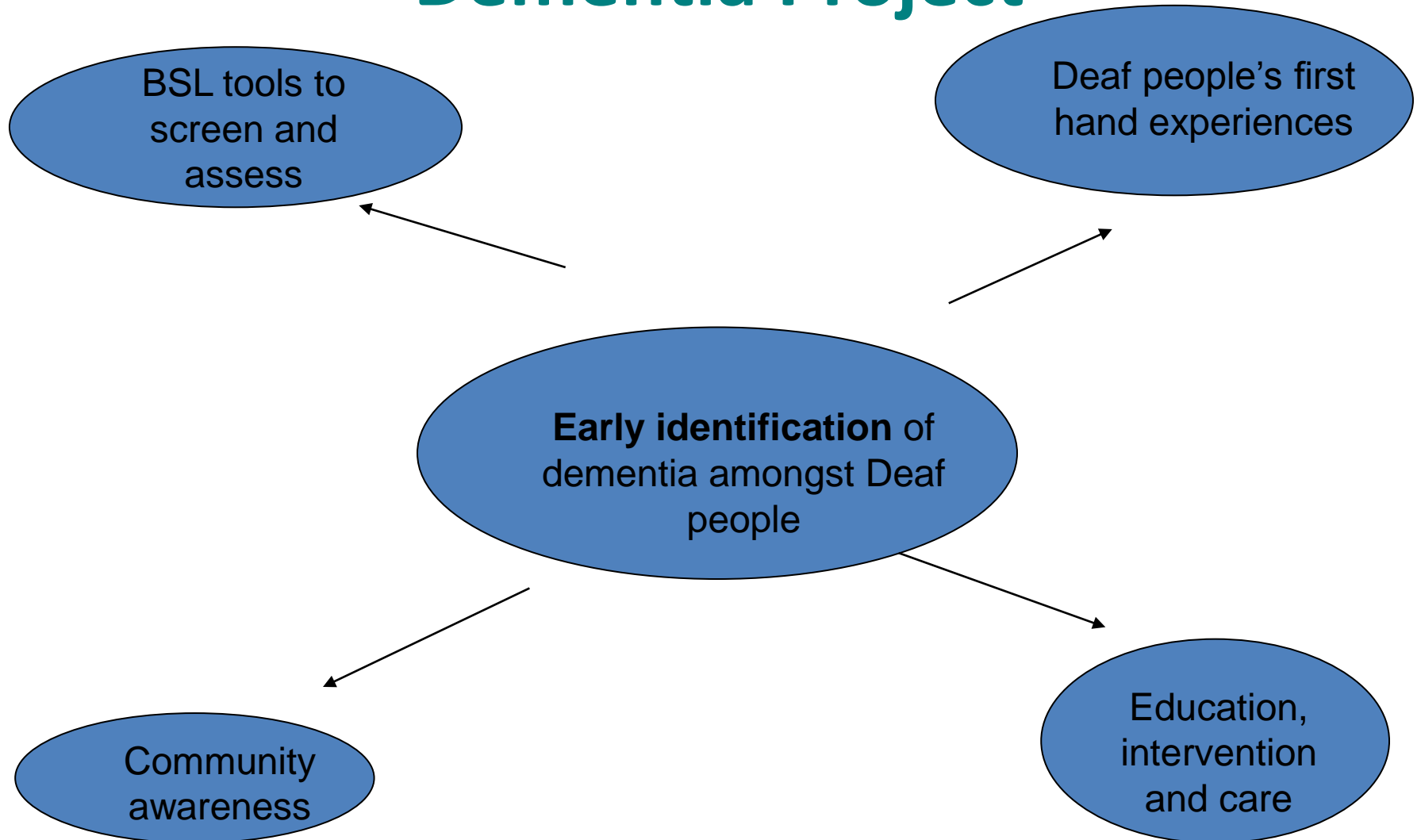- 50-100,000 Deaf BSL users in the UK

- Linguistic and cultural group

Being Deaf

- Language

- Culture

- Community

BSL Quiz

- Deaf people who use BSL cannot do jury service.

- BSL was only officially recognised as an indigenous language of the British Isles 9 years ago.

- In the late 19th Century sign languages were banned in schools for deaf children.

- BSL displays regional variation and dialect (e.g. it's slightly different in different parts of the UK)

- The grammar of sign languages around the world is more or less the same.

Rationale for Deaf with Dementia Project

BSL tools to screen and assess

Deaf people's first hand experiences

Early identification of dementia amongst Deaf people

Community awareness

Education, intervention and care

The Project Studies

1. Study 1 – Understanding healthy ageing in Deaf people and developing appropriate assessments to help identify dementia

2. Study 2 - Exploring Deaf people's experiences of living with Dementia and their priorities for care and support services

3. Study 3 – Exploring best information and support provision

Focus Groups: Information

- Access to information

- How information is given

- How information is sourced

Focus Groups: Knowledge

- Definition of dementia

- Symptoms of dementia

- Causes of dementia

- Dementia and language (BSL)

Interviews: early observations

- The use of BSL – older generation

- The need for self-autonomy in the community – tell or don't tell

- The use of DVDs

Interviews: early observations

- Access to health services and professional attitudes

- Access to Alzheimer's Society cafe - comments

- Impact of interviews for carers – both on entry and exit

Impact of the Deaf with Dementia Project

Department of Health

SCIE Dementia Gateway

Alzheimer's Society Training Day

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