

ABSTRACT

This phenomenological study was undertaken to investigate the impact of Deaf Culture and British Sign Language (BSL) on the therapeutic relationship.

Therapists working with D/deaf people were interviewed on a number of questions relating to the quality of the therapeutic relationship conducted in BSL. The wider therapeutic practices of supervision and training were also considered.

Results suggested that there is indeed a unique nature of the therapeutic relationship as conducted in signed language. Participants suggested that there is a lack of availability of therapeutic services for D/deaf people which spans from the provision of training to the availability of supervision for therapists working with the client group. This has an inherent danger in terms of limiting service provision as well as therapists becoming marginalised and isolated.

In the light of the above the main suggestion for further research was around addressing lack of provision, marginalisation and isolation through intervention at training level.