

# **Bold Shield**

## Project Summary

### Deliverable D11

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The BoldShield project is funded under the Small Business Research Innovation Scheme, under the auspices of the technology Strategy Board. The particular strand of this scheme relates to people with learning disabilities and is managed by Papworth Hospital Trust.

The project is led by Red Embedded Ltd: a videoconferencing for health company. The other partners are: FAST (The Foundation for Assistive Technology): designing assistive technology; Sandwell MBC: A local Authority using video conferencing with people who have learning disabilities

The Deaf Studies Trust: research charity working on video technology  
HW Communications: technology for security and privacy.

The project is funded at £100k for 6 months with a possibility to develop further over two years (phase 2) with funding of £250k. The DST component is relatively small at this stage being mainly to provide focus group and to test out ideas for video interaction in the Telehealth/Telecare scenario. The clue is in the “business” part of the funding and it is clear that ultimately a business case/service case has to be presented.

The project aim is threefold:

- to extend the successful Sandwell LD greater independence project<sup>1</sup> to include healthcare;
- to extend the combined offering to include location and improved security;
- to extend the combined service for deaf people in order to identify the benefits of enhanced communication provided by video conferencing and the challenges of integrating third party services.

We will undertake user centred design together with service re-design leading to a small scale feasibility (not clinical) trial of a service and technology implementation and dissemination, which in a phase 2 proposal will lead to service transformation in a full deployment.

Practically, DST will provide support in creating a Deaf perspective on current and potential future products. Such products/service development can be inside a phase 2 project or separately.

In concrete terms, DST will collect data through focus groups on the current means of access to health care and the potential of technology to improve that access, provide efficient health servicing and to achieve cost savings.

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<sup>1</sup> As far as can be determined this project provided a video link through a set top box between those with learning disabilities and carers.