

Should there be a Deaf Register?

Join the SCoD Debate

Birthday Celebrations

Deaf History on DVD

One-stop Shops

Welcome...

...to our 26th newsletter. This issue includes features on the rise of the one-stop shop and the recent celebrations of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Building on the success of our June debate on Cochlear Implants (read all about it on pages 6-7) we invite you to join our discussion in October on the value of a Deaf Register, similar to the model that already exists for blind people. We hope you enjoy reading this issue - don't forget to sign the Subtitles Now! petition.



Lilian Lawson OBE
SCoD Director

Should there be a Deaf Register?

Twenty years ago there was a lot of support for the Deaf Register which SCoD (then known as SAD) launched in 1992.

The aims were to:

- (i) *assess the extent of hearing loss in Scotland;*
- (ii) *identify areas where resources are most required and*
- (iii) *highlight the requirement for the wider provision of services and facilities.*

Unfortunately due to lack of funding the Register was discontinued in 1999.

Today we still have no reliable statistics and the three aims that we identified in 1992 have not been satisfactorily reached.

How can public bodies plan their strategies for deaf people without proper information?

NDCS Scotland recently launched a campaign for better data on deaf children and there is a Register for the Blind (benefits of registration include a 50% discount on the TV licence and free postage on items marked "for the blind").

So, should there be a Deaf Register? Find out more and share your views at our National Council meeting on Tuesday 23rd October at Forth Valley Sensory Centre, in Camelon, Falkirk FK1 4DD. The meeting starts at 10.30am.

AGM2012

The SCoD AGM follows the National Council meeting (detailed above) and takes place in the afternoon of 23rd October. Falkirk Council is generously welcoming us with a civic reception which includes a buffet lunch.

Our guest speaker is Mabel Davis CBE. Mabel is the first Deaf British Headteacher. She recently retired from Heathlands School in Hertfordshire which she ran for twenty years.

Attendance at our meetings is free and you are welcome at both - our AGM and National Council (above) - but please assist our planning by registering your wish to attend.

Email events@scod.org.uk with your details, indicating which meeting(s) you would like to attend.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, SCoD disclaims any liability for inaccuracy or omission.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of SCoD. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

This newsletter is prepared in-house by SCoD staff, with contributions from permanent staff, project staff and other interested parties. Articles for future issues are always welcomed and considered. Please contact the editor:

Email: editor@scod.org.uk

Voice/textphone: 0141 248 2477

Visit the offices: Central Chambers Suite 62,
93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD

SCoD is a registered Scottish charity: SC016957

Printed on paper from well managed forests, where trees are farmed as crops.



BSL Bill Update



Mark Griffin MSP

As outlined in our last issue, a new consultation on the Proposed BSL Bill (Scotland) is going ahead, but has seen delays. The work on the draft consultation document took longer than expected. The Cross Party Group on Deafness approved the final draft at their meeting in March. The consultation document asks twelve questions covering legislation, promotion of BSL, financial implications, free classes for families of deaf children, the need for a designated Minister and an advisory board of BSL users to work with the Minister.

A BSL version of the consultation document - crucial for a fair consultation - has also been produced. The consultation, launched at the end of July, runs until 31st October. Further updates will appear on our website: www.scod.org.uk.

Photo thanks



Deafblind Scotland (p11)
Rachel O'Neill (pp12&13)



Members' Bills

The Scottish Parliament website now features a 20

minute video explaining what a Member's Bill is, how a Member's Bill is introduced and how you can follow the progress of a proposed Member's Bill. The video is presented in BSL with captions and voiceover and can be viewed on the Scottish Parliament website:

➔ www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/3380.aspx - this will take you to the BSL video archive of the Scottish Parliament website where you will find a wide range of BSL clips detailing how the Parliament works, how to submit a public petition, the distinction between the roles of MPs, MSPs and MEPs, registering to vote, information about visiting the parliament including the fire evacuation procedure and how to make a complaint, comment or suggestion. All BSL clips are captioned with a voiceover.

“New app lets the deaf talk to everyone”

This was how the Metro welcomed the announcement, earlier this year, that a group of scientists in Aberdeen were working on a Portable Sign Language Translator (or PSLT). We read this news with excitement and scepticism in equal measure.

The PSLT is described as a software application that works on a variety of portable off-the-shelf devices and in fact will work on all types of phones no matter how cheap they are, as long as they have a camera. The translator will launch in the second half of 2013.

“Most people can't understand sign language,” said project leader Dr Ernesto Compantangelo “So they are unable to talk with the deaf. Therefore, it means it's not so simple to work together, but now it will be.”

According to the the developers, the reaction has been very positive amongst the Deaf community - especially when it was trialled; apparently Deaf people “were happy with it”. We weren't able to find any Deaf Aberdonians who had seen this application demonstrated, but when we do we will report further on this development in our monthly bulletin and on our website: ➔ www.scod.org.uk.



BSLBT Films



The British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust (BSLBT) has produced two 23 minute

documentaries about the **History of Deaf Education**. Presented in BSL by Louise Harte and captioned, these films are a must see for anyone with an interest in the history of Deaf education. Imaginatively presented, blending factual reporting with dramatised scenes, the films make fascinating viewing.

You can view them online on the BSLBT website:

➔ www.bslbt.co.uk/programmes/history-of-deaf-education/programme-1/

➔ www.bslbt.co.uk/programmes/history-of-deaf-education/programme-2/



UN Disability Convention: Know Your Rights

The UN Disability Convention is an international agreement

about the rights of disabled people. It was drafted by and for disabled people around the world after decades of campaigning.

This short animated film is a culmination of joint activity with the Scottish Human Rights Commission to promote the Convention amongst disabled people and Disabled People's Organisations over the last two years.

The film aims to raise awareness of the Convention in Scotland and features a day in the life of a disabled person, as they experience these rights - the rights to education, independent living and freedom of expression. It is BSL interpreted and a full transcript is also available from the website:

➔ www.equalityhumanrights.com

Subtitles Now!

As deaf people are well aware, the majority of online and on demand video is rarely captioned which effectively excludes a significant proportion of the population.

The Subtitles Now! campaign seeks to make digital content accessible for deaf and hard of hearing people. The campaign, which takes the form of an e-petition on the Government website is open for signature until 22nd September.

In order to qualify to be considered for debate in the House of Commons it will need 100,000 signatures. If you believe that deaf people should get the same access to online video as everyone else then follow the link below and sign the petition.

➔ epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/35180

Spring Gathering

Around 50 enthusiastic history buffs descended upon Aberdeen's North East Sensory Services in May to celebrate the third Spring Gathering of Deaf History Scotland (DHS).

A lavish buffet lunch lovingly prepared by Kathleen Cameron and her small team of volunteers welcomed our arrival.

After lunch, the Gathering was formally opened by the DHS chair, Ian Carmichael who requested a minute of silence in memory of Edith Ewen who had recently passed away. Edith was a DHS life member.

The Gathering was the launch pad for *History of the Edward Cup*, a new book by Sandy Brooks and Robert Smith. The Edward Cup (pictured right), awarded to winners of the Scottish Deaf Football Cup, is the oldest football trophy still contested. It was first competed for in the season of 1873 – 1874 and the new book offers a full account of its story. Both writers were present and gave short talks. DHS assisted with the publication of the book and all sale proceeds go back to DHS to support future publications. Following the book launch, audience members had the chance to buy their own copies and get them signed by the authors.

Next up was a superb slideshow put together by Scott Cameron featuring a range of photographs and memorabilia relating to the Scottish Regional Council and Scottish branches of the British Deaf Association. Some

of these photos dated back to the beginning of the last century. Later images brought back fond memories for many in the audience, notably the famous BDA Triennial Congress in Rothesay in 1986.

Item 4 in the programme – a "Surprise" DVD show – eagerly anticipated by us all turned out to be a real gem.

The official opening of the new Aberdeen School for the Deaf in 1987. The late Edith Ewen had kindly given Lilian Lawson an old VHS from her collection which ac2.com kindly transferred to DVD. A true trip down memory lane was enjoyed as Aberdonians recognised younger versions of themselves and others, like teachers Jim and Norma Hunter and Peter Collins, at that time the Principal Officer of Aberdeen & North East Society for the Deaf.

Finally, a trailer created by Bryan Marshall showcased SCoD's History DVDs to date – "Deaf People at Work", "Deaf People at War" and "Deaf Sporting Memories".

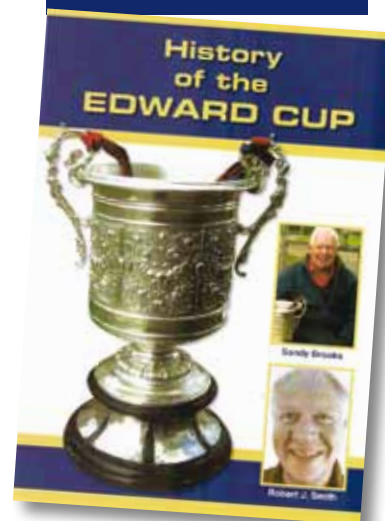
SCoD Director Lilian Lawson (Treasurer of DHS) provided a brief background to the project which was followed by some shared memories from the audience.

The next event for DHS will be the AGM in Glasgow on 17th November. Further details on our own website www.scod.org.uk and the Deaf History Scotland site.



Where are they now?

Pupils perform at the opening of the Aberdeen School for the Deaf in 1987.



Secure your copy while stocks last!

You can purchase a copy of this book from DHS – price £7 including p&p. Send a cheque made payable to *Deaf History Scotland* to Lilian Lawson, DHS Treasurer and send it to the SCoD Offices. Our address is on the back page.



Keep up to date with Deaf History Scotland by visiting their website: www.deafhistoryscotland.org.uk



Goodbye Gracey Daisy

We would like to pay tribute to Grace Bannan who passed away in June aged only 54. Grace regularly interpreted at SCoD meetings but it was at our monthly team meetings that we really got to know her and to appreciate what a special person she was. You never saw Grace being grumpy – even first thing on a Monday morning! - and we loved her chatter before and after meetings.

In fact, we were just remembering the other day how we would greet her arrival at the office with a round of applause and a cheer. She always said she loved the welcome she got at SCoD. Not only did Grace have a great sense of humour, she also cared deeply about others and was close to completing her counselling course where she hoped to fill a much needed gap as a counsellor for Deaf people.

Sadly, it wasn't to be as Grace contracted cancer and despite periods of remission, she finally succumbed to the illness last month.

It's hard to imagine what she suffered, but she remained her happy self throughout and fought her illness with true dignity.

My relationship with Grace began with my interview for the post of Information Officer at SCoD in 2003. She had been drafted in to interpret at the last minute and had travelled up from England. Grace became a regular and welcome part of my life in the years to come. She was supportive, caring and always ready to see the good, the fun and the funny. I loved to see her eyes tear up with laughter. To me Grace was more than an interpreter; I considered her a friend.

The massive turnout at her funeral demonstrated this depth of feeling. She would have enjoyed the service, not just for the sight of so many people dressed in bright colours (as was her wish), but also for her interpreter colleagues sign singing the Beatles and Abba.

Before this service, Abba's "I Have a Dream" was to me little more than a sweet familiar melody. Hearing the words and seeing the song interpreted so beautifully by Yvonne Strain gave the song a new resonance. Suddenly the words had meaning. I cried.

Who would have thought Abba could have that effect on anyone?! Putting a friend like Grace into past tense is hard.

We all miss her.



At her funeral no collection was taken but it was requested that donations be made directly to St Andrew's Hospice, the only specialist service offering palliative care in Lanarkshire.

They have a website where you can donate online:

 www.st-andrews-hospice.com/





Cochlear Implants

The number of recipients of cochlear implants in Scotland is increasing and children are being implanted at an early age. We wanted to find out more, so invited three speakers to our National Council meeting in June.

by Alison Coyle

First was Miss Mary Shanks, Consultant ENT Surgeon; Surgical Director of the Scottish Cochlear Implant Programme at Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock.

Miss Shanks began by describing a cochlear implant. This is an electronic device consisting of a digital receiver (pictured above) which is implanted into the head and attached to tiny electrodes which are coiled round the cochlea to stimulate the nerves and a sound processor which is worn externally (see picture opposite). The external processor captures sound and transmits it into the coil inside the cochlea which stimulates the hearing nerves. The hearing nerves send messages to the brain which are interpreted as sound.

The cochlear implant programme at Crosshouse was established in 1988 by Raj Singh. Today, Crosshouse is the only centre providing implants in Scotland; however patients receive after-care in their own areas. There are currently 938 cochlear implant users in Scotland. Adults in Scotland have been receiving implants since 1989 and the first child to be implanted was in 1994. Various assessments are carried out prior to surgery and in the case of children, rehabilitation experts visit them at home. Only severely

to profoundly deaf people whose hearing cannot benefit from hearing aids are considered.

Children up to the age of 16 have the option of implantation in both ears (bilateral implantation) but there is only sufficient funding in place for adults to be given one implant and many feel they would benefit from two.

The second speaker was David Steel of NHS National Services Scotland. One of the remits of the National Services Division (NSD) is to oversee small highly specialist NHS services in Scotland. Cochlear implantation is such a specialist service. Because of the relatively small number of cochlear operations taking place (125 last year in Scotland) having one specialist centre at Crosshouse means all the experts are at the one site. There is a highly skilled team of surgeons, clinicians, rehabilitation and support experts and funding is allocated to the host NHS board, in this case, NHS Ayrshire and Arran by NSD.

Our third speaker, Linda Watters, described her own experience of losing her hearing almost overnight due to an illness. Her life came to a standstill as she was no longer able to work or enjoy her various interests such as swimming and teaching children to swim. She didn't even want to go out as she couldn't face meeting other

people. Since her implant she is again teaching children to swim and has regained her confidence. She said that prior to her operation she could not imagine standing up and speaking before an audience.

For many adults with profound hearing loss, choosing to have a cochlear implant can mean not just restoring their hearing but also many aspects of their lives and the advantages are obvious.

When it comes to children, though, some people do have concerns. In the UK, members of the Deaf community share a unique history and cultural identity and perhaps most importantly, they share a language – British Sign Language (BSL). There are deaf people who have struggled through school who say they felt as though they had “come home” when they discovered the Deaf community and they do not want today's deaf children to miss out. They also have concerns about education; too often, throughout their history, some Deaf children's education has been hindered by the time and effort spent on their speech development.

The reason given by Mary Shanks for implanting babies and children so early is to give them the opportunity to develop speech within a similar timescale as hearing children. It is understandable that hearing parents in the UK

would wish their deaf children to learn English (about 95% of deaf children are born to hearing parents). Deaf parents are more comfortable with BSL and their deaf children are able to acquire BSL naturally.

Language is critical to education and Marschark and Hauser say in their book *How Deaf Children Learn*, “early language fluency is important both in its own right and as it supports social development, cognitive development and ...educational experiences.” So what is most important is the early acquisition of language - spoken or signed.

It is widely accepted that there is a ‘critical period’ for language acquisition and children are at their most receptive in their first three or four years. More about this can be found in Steven Pinker’s “The Language Instinct”. This applies not just to spoken language, but to sign languages as well. It is wrong to say children can learn to speak English and if they want to they can learn BSL later on. It is a rare individual who can learn every nuance of a new language in adulthood and understand it deeply enough to express subtle or complex thoughts.

To provide the best opportunities for choice later on, shouldn’t deaf children learn both English and BSL? Recent research has shown that bilingualism can be beneficial and there’s no reason why early acquisition of BSL along with English should be detrimental to young children.

Antonella Sorace, Professor of Linguistics at Edinburgh University, says in her article in *Children in Scotland* magazine *Two are Better than*

One – “Research on bilingual language and cognition shows that the human brain is perfectly capable of dealing with two or more languages simultaneously from birth.” In fact, she also says “a further spin off of bilingualism is higher awareness of language and greater ability to think about it and talk about it.”

So, wouldn’t it be wonderful if all hearing parents of deaf children could have access to free BSL classes and the children could attend BSL playgroups? This would not only facilitate the acquisition of BSL, it would also increase awareness of the Deaf community.

Parents of newly diagnosed deaf children who are considering implants should have access to information not just from the cochlear implant team at Crosshouse but also from deaf people themselves. Implanted children are still deaf and the opportunity for them to integrate in the Deaf community later on, if they decide that’s what they want, should be there for them.

We hope you enjoyed the meeting in June if you were there and if you were unable to attend, we hope this article has given you a little more information about cochlear implants in Scotland.



You can read the position statement of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
www.nad.org/issues/technology/assistive-listening/cochlear-implants

Please see also NDCS position statement on cochlear implants available online:

➔ www.ndcs.org.uk/about_us/position_statements/cochlear_implants.html

Professor Sorace’s article is available online:

➔ www.lel.ed.ac.uk/~antonell/CinS2009-article.pdf

If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to read these statements, you can visit your local library or please contact the SCoD office and we will let you have a copy.

Try Before You Buy Centres

BT has Try Before You Buy centres all over Scotland that allow you to try out their phone equipment to make sure what you want is suitable for your needs.

It can be very disappointing buying something from a shop only to get it home and find that it doesn’t work in the way you wanted. By working in partnership with third-party centres, BT has over 200 locations where you can see, handle and try out their equipment without being pressurised by sales people.

These centres are set up in disabled living centres or within organisations helping people with particular impairments, so you also get the expertise of professionals working in these centres.

New centres are joining the network all the time. Find out where your nearest centre is by visiting:

➔ www.btplc.com/inclusion/trybeforeyoubuy/





Let's Hear it for the Dogs!

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence

by Alison Coyle

Hearing Dogs was launched in 1982 at Crufts by Dr Bruce Fogle (father of TV's Ben Fogle) and Lady Wright of the RNID.

The charity has been celebrating 30 successful years with events around the country. I was lucky enough to be invited on behalf of SCoD to a drinks reception in the Visit Scotland office at Ocean Terminal, Edinburgh accompanied by my eldest daughter.

The evening was attended by lots of hearing dogs and their owners as well as friends, family and supporters. I spoke to Ann when I arrived who told me she had come through from the west of Scotland and wouldn't get home until 11 o'clock that evening. She had brought a cheque for funds she had raised in the recent 10k race. That, to me, proves the commitment and passion of Hearing Dogs' supporters.

It's no wonder really when you find out more about them which we did by way of a demonstration by old hand Erin and younger dog, Lily.

Erin showed how she works to the different sounds of the doorbell, fire alarm and alarm clock. How much better to be awakened by a friendly mutt than by the vibration of an alarm under your pillow! Lily demonstrated how hearing dogs work with children, waking them up gently and taking notes from mum out to the garden where the child is playing.

It's not just the practical things though; we learned how some deaf children feel safer at night with their dog beside them. Not being able to hear night time sounds any more can lead to anxiety but thanks to the dog, they feel more relaxed and can sleep soundly.

I've spoken to many deafened adults who talk of their isolation and lack of confidence after losing their hearing. At the bus stop, for example, they stand, head down, hoping no-one will speak to them knowing they may not understand. A hearing dog can open their world to others who want to know about the dog: now there's a context to the conversation and the person already knows they are deaf.

Over 1500 partnerships have been formed in the 30 years of Hearing Dogs, but one is particularly well known here in Scotland – Margaret Arthur and her wee dog, Dennis. I often meet Margaret when she's raising funds at Central station in Glasgow, so it was a real pleasure to see her years of hard work rewarded at the Edinburgh celebration with a

certificate and a bouquet of flowers presented to her by Hearing Dogs' deputy chief executive Bill King.

To everyone who made me and my daughter feel so welcome and allowed us to photograph their dogs – Thank You. It was a real pleasure and privilege to meet you all.



Find out more about Hearing Dogs, sign up for their newsletter, sponsor a puppy, support the 'My Best Friend' appeal or make a donation - all on their website:

www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Deaf History on DVD

At SCoD HQ we have been keeping ourselves busy producing history DVDs for you to learn about life in the past for Deaf people. To date our series, Presenting the Past, has produced a DVD about wartime experiences and one about working life. Now we are proud to announce the launch of our third history DVD, Deaf People on the Road. It features

31 Deaf Scots (16 men and 15 women) sharing their memories of learning to drive, sitting their driving test, problems taking out insurance, breaking down ... all simple enough activities, but made slightly more complex when you remember that all of these people are Deaf. How did their driving instructors communicate with them? How

many were charged extra on their car insurance *just for being deaf?* It may seem crazy now, but this is the Deaf experience in the raw. Get your copies now! Use the form below or pop into the office to collect your free copy. We only had a limited run of 500 copies per title so when they're gone, they're gone for good!



Order Form

Name:

Address to send the DVD(s):

Postcode:

I wish to order all three titles for £5 ☐

I wish to order single titles (£2 each)

Deaf People at Work ☐

Deaf People at War ☐

Deaf People on the Road ☐

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to ☐
Scottish Council on Deafness

Once completed, please send with your remittance to:

Scottish Council on Deafness, Central Chambers Suite 62, 93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD



This form can also be downloaded from our website.

Regular readers and sports fans will be delighted to learn that the Sporting Memories DVD that we were working on was launched earlier this year at Touchbase in Glasgow. Some copies are still available and can be

collected from the SCoD office for free. If you cannot make it into the office we can send your copy out to you but a nominal charge of £2 applies to cover our p&p costs. Please use the order form below.



I enclose a cheque/postal order for £2 made payable to ☐
Scottish Council on Deafness

Name:

Address to send the DVD:

DVD ORDER FORM

Postcode:

Once completed, please send with your remittance to:

Scottish Council on Deafness, Central Chambers Suite 62, 93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD



Can One Size Really Fit All?

We explore the proliferation of the 'one-stop shop'

The idea of one-stop shops is not a new one. There have been one-stop shops in Scotland for a number of years and the Scottish Government has encouraged local authorities to set up one-stop shops to cover many of their services - equipment and information for disabled people, licensing services, services for older people.

One-stop shops for deaf and blind people are a newer innovation.

In 2007, the Scottish Government published "Guidance on providing community care services for people with a sensory impairment" and put aside funding for training packs to address the need for training in communication skills for frontline community care staff. Following on from this, the government also made a commitment to pilot a sensory impairment one-stop-shop approach to community care services.

"The aim of the one-stop shops was to look at shifting away service delivery from the traditional model of GPs and hospitals, reducing pressure at these points, into a model where services can be delivered more locally with additional support, advice and information provided within the same location. The Scottish Government has given commitment to support further development of the one-stop shop model and funding has been secured for this."

In 2009, the Scottish Government committed another three years funding of £2.2million for seven pilots across Scotland:

	Argyll and Bute
	Borders, Dundee and Glasgow
	Fife
	Moray
	Western Isles

These organisations have been funded to provide services, support and information on local mainstream services for deaf and blind people in their funded areas.

The intention is to provide a resource where all needs can be met in one location. The same services will be available in each of the "shops" – early diagnosis, access to equipment and aids, advice and support, skills training, and in the Borders and the Western Isles, a mobile outreach service.

"The pilots also offer people with a sensory impairment the opportunity to have peer support and to find further information on issues such as further education, training and benefits."

As well as this funding, money was given to Deafblind Scotland to develop a training and awareness raising tool on dual sensory loss for community care professionals; and to Visibility (formerly Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Blind) to work with care homes in West Dunbartonshire and provide sensory impairment awareness and communication skills training in these care homes.

The Scottish Government's commitment to this model of one-stop shops is set to continue as the SNP included their commitment in their election manifesto in 2011.

"We will continue to invest in services for deaf Scots and blind and partially-sighted Scots and work to improve access to services and remove barriers to inclusion. We will support the further development of the successful model of one-stop shops for all sensory impairment needs. We will continue to protect free eye tests in Scotland and work to build on the progress in improving access to audiology services."

votesnp.com/campaigns/SNP_Manifesto_2011_lowRes.pdf

To show their commitment to this approach of joint sensory impairment services, the Scottish Government is working with deaf organisations and visual impairment organisations to put together a joint sensory impairment strategy.

Quotes from:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/adult-care-and-support/sensory-impairment

Guidance on providing community care services for people with a sensory impairment

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/adult-care-and-support/sensory-impairment/Resources/guidance

What deaf people are saying about the one-stop shops and the proposed Joint Sensory Impairment Strategy:

"There have been lots of consultation meetings about strategies – autism, older people. These are nothing to do with me. I have been watching for a meeting about this joint sensory impairment strategy. There hasn't been one. When is the government going to come and speak to deaf people about it? Or will the same people from the same organisations be asked to speak on my behalf, when they don't. I don't belong to a deaf organisation. I can speak for myself."

Woman from Fife who has an Acquired Profound Hearing Loss

"One-stop shops – they're meant to provide services for deaf people and people who can't see - all in the one place, aren't they? So why is the one-stop shop in Dundee in two different hospitals at opposite ends of the town? What does the government say to that?"

Man who is deaf and comes from Dundee

Playing with Fire!

Deafblind Scotland Training Manager, Stephen Joyce, and Chairperson Bob Nolan were both honoured to take part in the Olympic torch relay. Bob carried the Olympic torch in Aberdeenshire on Monday 11th June along Banchory High Street and Stephen Joyce completed his Olympic torch leg in Skinflats on Wednesday 13th June. Deafblind Scotland Resources Manager, Drena O'Malley, was privileged to be present on both occasions and took these pictures. 500 people lined the streets of Banchory, some of them being Bob's friends, family and co-workers from Shell UK. It was an emotional moment when Bob completed his 500 metre leg and passed the flame on to the next torch bearer. On Wednesday 13th Stephen joined the torch bearer bus at the Falkirk Wheel and was cheered on his way with 14 others each with a torch allocated to them.



Bob Nolan and Stephen Joyce demonstrate the 'torch kiss'



Stephen didn't have a BSL interpreter and Drena joined him on the bus to interpret. Stephen was the final torch bearer to be dropped off at the start point of his run and emerged to a tumultuous reception led by family who had travelled from England and lots of deaf friends from across Scotland. Deafblind Scotland, where Stephen works as Training Manager, was also well represented along the route, which was again lined by hundreds of people, waving flags and cheering.

"It was an amazing experience, there were crowds of people lining the streets, all waving and smiling. In a little place like Skinflats – wow!"
Stephen Joyce

SOLAR BEAR launches DEAF THEATRE CLUB



The Deaf Theatre Club, funded by Creative Scotland and hosted by Solar Bear was formally launched at Glasgow's Tramway with the performance of Macbeth in June. Alan Cumming played all of the main characters in this reimagining of the classic Scottish play. Unfortunately for the Deaf and hearing people who had come along to enjoy an evening of BSL accessible theatre, on arrival they discovered that the show would be relayed through captions as the interpreter was unwell.

The Deaf Theatre Club is being launched in six other theatres throughout Scotland including Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness. Full details can be found on our website calendar (www.scod.org.uk), in our monthly bulletin and also on the Solar Bear website: www.solarbear.org.uk.

What Factors Lead to Deaf Pupils' Academic Success?

Deaf Achievement Scotland research update from:

Rachel O'Neill and Julie Arendt, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Marc Marschark, National Tertiary Institute for the Deaf and Rochester Institute of Technology, New York

The Deaf Achievement Scotland research funded by the Nuffield Foundation followed up a previous project at Moray House School of Education called the Achievement of Deaf Pupils in Scotland, which ran between 2000 and 2005, led by Dr. Mary Brennan. The initial project collected data from all teachers of deaf children in Scotland about all the pupils they visited, so the range of hearing loss considered is much wider than in other comparable studies. The ADPS database is large and relatively unexplored.

The follow-up project aimed to contact as many as possible of the young deaf adults who have now left school to ask them about their experiences looking back at school, their further and higher education and transition to work. In addition we contacted as many of the parents as possible of the deaf children still at school. The research team had data-sharing agreements with SQA and the Scottish Government statistics department which allowed us to track the academic achievement of 540 deaf pupils who have now left school.

The researchers found that the mean tariff score at S4 (i.e. aged 15) was 137 for deaf pupils

compared to a mean score of 175 for all Scottish pupils. A tariff score is a way of simplifying the complex Scottish exam system and comparing results between pupils. Further analysis showed that there was a correlation between the tariff score with indicators of socio-economic status and with degree of hearing loss. The first of these, the link to socio-economic status, is unfortunately expected in the UK. The second has not previously been shown: any degree of deafness has led to much depressed academic achievement scores in other studies. However, the fact the ADPS study had a wider range of deaf pupils involved, including some who had a hearing loss only in one ear, or mild deafness, has revealed results which show a gradient of the average tariff point score from those deaf in one ear to profoundly deaf pupils. The differences between the moderately, severely and profoundly deaf average scores is not significant, as shown by other studies.

The study has two unique features which make the findings interesting. Firstly, it analyses the experiences of 53 children who have been implanted at a younger age than previous cohorts; this particular group of cochlear implant users had great success with SQA exams, but

the team are not yet sure whether this may be related to them being entered for more exams. Secondly, it has been possible to investigate the effect of having a mild hearing loss, investigated for a group of 144 pupils, in much more detail than before. Academic achievement for this group of pupils at S4 (i.e. aged 15) is much more variable than expected.

Analyses of levels of support over the ADPS project period were compared with outcomes.

Results suggest that services for deaf children often seem to use audiological labels to allocate levels of support, and as a consequence moderately deaf children and some mildly deaf children seem to have received less support than they needed to succeed in the education system. At a time of cutbacks in school support services, this is an important finding.

Over the summer the team are completing their analysis and producing academic articles. Participants will receive a summary of the results in late August when the project ends. SCoD members may be particularly interested in the analysis of the questionnaire sent to young deaf adults about their experiences of transition, which had 188 respondents.





Further linked study:
NDCS transition
research
The National Deaf
Children's Society has
funded CREID, the
Centre for
Research in
Education, Inclusion
and Diversity, at the
School of Education,
University of
Edinburgh, to research
the experiences of
young d/Deaf people

in transition from school to college,
university or work. Thirty d/Deaf
participants will be interviewed for
this project from across Scotland and
from a wide range of backgrounds.

The researcher on this project, Dr
Mariela Fordyce, can be contacted
on mfordyce@ed.ac.uk or tel. 0131
651 6517. Mariela did her PhD thesis
in deaf education and has a strong
interest in bilingualism, as she is also
an ESOL teacher.

This research, stated in May 2012 will
run for a year. The research aims to
find out the significant issues for young
people in the process of transition,
whether they have a transition plan,
and how much they are informed and
consulted as they become young
adults. CREID will publish a briefing
when the research is finished which will
be posted on their website:

➔ [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/
education/research/centres-groups/
creid/briefings](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/education/research/centres-groups/creid/briefings)

FREE LIPREADING GROUPS IN WEST LOTHIAN

These groups are
available for any adult
living in West Lothian
with a hearing loss
At least a year's
course can be offered

for free, on a two hour basis, once a week.

At present the classes take place as follows:

Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm Sensory Resource Centre, St
John's Hospital, Livingston

Thursday 1pm to 3pm Strathbrock Education Wing,
Broxburn

Thursday evening 7pm to 9pm at West Lothian College,
Livingston

A Hard of Hearing
Support Group meets
on Wednesday
evenings at Bathgate
Academy from 7pm to
9pm.

Also running are six
week taster groups
which provide basic
lipreading practice

and information on coping with hearing loss, some in the
daytime and some in the evening, once a term.

Please contact

Jane Mallon, Adult Basic Education
Bathgate Partnership Centre
South Bridge Street
Bathgate
West Lothian
EH48 1TS
Tel: 01506 282936
jane.mallon@westlothian.gov.uk

ATLA

Creating a world in which lipreading classes are available to all those who need them.

If you are looking for a local lipreading class or group you
could try enquiring at your local library. Alternatively, you
could visit the ATLA website. ATLA is the Association of
Teachers of Lipreading to Adults and has a website with a
search function enabling you to find classes in your area.
Visit: ➔ www.lipreading.org.uk/lipreading-classes.html

Lipreading Teacher Training: Course Starting in September

At the AGM of the Scottish Course to Train
Tutors of Lipreading (SCTTL), in June, the
committee was delighted to inform their
members of the recent developments in funding
for the course.

£200,000 funding has been attained through
the Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group from
the Scottish Government. This means that a
course will be run for six weekends from this
September until June 2013. The committee
is working hard to organise a course venue.
Prospective students will be interviewed shortly.

When it was not possible to run
the course over the past few
year, a natural waiting list has
developed. Those on this list will
be contacted first. Anyone wishing
more information about applying
for the course or any other aspects
should contact either our course
co-ordinator or administrator on
helenshannon5@googlemail.com
or ccflute@gmail.com





Policy & Research

Mandy Reid

At the end of March, the Scottish Government Equality Unit agreed to provide SCoD with a further three years funding for our policy and research work. The Voluntary Action Fund will continue to oversee our work on behalf of the government.

Policy is exciting at the moment. There is a lot happening in Scotland as well as the continuing welfare reform led by the DWP. This is a snapshot of what is currently taking place.

Welfare Reform Update

In the last issue of SCoD News, we reported that the second draft of criteria had been published for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). In this second draft, there is a separate section on communication and one of social engagement. This should have made us happy that we had been listened to and that the DWP were more committed to the needs of deaf people. Unfortunately, the way that the questions are worded means that many deaf people could still lose this benefit once the changes are made from DLA to PIP.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 was passed earlier this year - see www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/section/6/enacted. This is the Act that allows the coalition government to change the way that all benefits are paid, including PIP. The biggest change that is going to take place is that all the current benefits are to be replaced by one – Universal Credit. So there will no longer be Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Employment and Support Allowance. Instead

Universal Credit will have four elements to it, depending on the individual's circumstances – a standard allowance that everyone will receive; an allowance if you have children or young people staying with you or who you are supporting financially; housing costs; and an allowance for other individual needs as "prescribed" by government. These prescribed needs are: the fact that the person has limited capability for work; the person has limited capability for work and work-related activity; or the person has regular and substantial caring responsibilities for a severely disabled person. The other major change to this way of paying benefits is that anyone who is assessed as being capable of work or a work-related activity will have a responsibility to find a job or undertake the activities that JobCentre Plus tells them that they have to do. If the person is unwilling to do this, their benefits will be reduced until they are willing to comply with the conditions placed upon them.

Inclusive Communication

The funding that Communication Forum Scotland received to take this work forward ran out at the end of March 2012. The final month of the project saw a Parliamentary Reception for everyone who had been part of the year-long project and the launch of a dedicated web site to the Principles of Inclusive Communication. It had been decided that the proposed conference on the Principles should not go ahead as some of the outcomes of the project had not been achieved due to events outwith the control of the project managers. The Scottish Government awarded the contract

to take this work forward to Sense Scotland and SCoD looks forward to supporting Sense in any way we can.

Policy in Scotland

SCoD spent some time working with NHS National Services Scotland on the Scottish Breast Screening Programme Review. The Cupar Hard of Hearing Group hosted a consultation meeting and ten older women came along to give their views on the Breast Screening Programme as it is at the moment and on the proposed changes. The women also raised a number of other issues to do with health and access to services. SCoD is in the process of investigating these issues. We also sent out a questionnaire to a number of women who wanted to take part in the consultation but who were unable to attend consultation events. The information received informed the response that we submitted and will contribute to another piece of work that we are undertaking on the accessibility of the breast screening programme as a whole.

We are continuing to work with the Scottish Ambulance Service on access and deaf awareness issues, as well as with the Lothian and Borders Police and Strathclyde Police Services.

We have put in written responses to the following consultations: Private Rented Housing Tenant Information Packs; Patient Rights' Charter; Bankruptcy Reform; Community Care Grants and Social Fund; Proposed Changes to the Tribunals System; the Review of Cross Party Groups; amongst others.

mydonate ...the new JustGiving!

With the impact of the recession still being felt, it is vital we make sure that every penny you donate to us goes towards those who need it most. As such we have transferred our online fundraising efforts from a service which charges both the charity and those who donate, to BT's free online fundraising service, MyDonate.

Like Justgiving, you can set up a fundraising page and/or make a one-off or regular donation, but *unlike* Justgiving there are no additional charges!

So, to help improve the lives of deaf people in Scotland, please follow the link below and make a donation now. Although the impact we make is great, we are not a big charity so even the smallest donation helps. You can also continue to support us by text using Justgiving's free text service in the same way as before.

➔ mydonate.bt.com/charities/scottishcouncilondeafness

Web address a bit of a mouthful? Don't be discouraged! You can visit

➔ mydonate.bt.com and search for **scod** or - even easier - visit our own website:

➔ www.scod.org.uk and look for the Donate button at the foot of our home page.



Donate by text

JustTextGiving™

by **vodafone**

To donate £10:
£ 10 =

Text the message:

SCOD27 **£10**

To this number:

70070



Thank you!

We'd like to say a special thank you to the infants of St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie for their fundraising efforts for SCoD earlier this year during Deaf Awareness week.



Arguably one of the most enjoyable ways of supporting us, while also improving your own health and fitness, is to take advantage of the warmer weather by strapping on your hiking boots and trekking for SCoD. There are three treks to choose from, each of which provides the opportunity for you to explore some of our country's amazing scenery...

Haven't you always wanted to walk the West Highland Way? SCoD is offering you the opportunity to do just that. With the support of trained Charitytrek guides, you can enjoy some of Scotland's most breathtaking views – raising vital funds for our charity with every step.

You simply need to pledge to raise a minimum £750 to walk the 95 miles from Milngavie to Fort William in May on the West Highland Way.

95 miles too much? Then what about the John Muir Way? This 45 mile walk takes you through the spectacular scenery between Musselburgh and Dunglass, forming East Lothian's part of the North Sea Trail, a path that connects seven countries around the North Sea. Raise a minimum £600 to participate.

A mixture of gentle fields and more serious hiking, the serene beauty of the John Muir Way is not to be missed! Dates are on our website.

Fulfil another ambition by climbing Britain's highest peak!

The Ben Nevis Challenge is taking place over a weekend in May 2013 and again in September, and we simply ask you to pledge a minimum £375 for the trek.

Escape the hassles of everyday life and experience the peace and tranquility of our beautiful country. Further information, dates and application/registration packs can be found on our website.

Visit ➔ www.scod.org.uk and click 'support us'.

To secure your place on any of these treks, all you need to do is complete and return your registration form to SCoD along with a deposit of £75. Take advantage of BT's free service by setting up your own personal fundraising page now.

If you would like any more information, contact either Alison or Linda by telephone on 0141 248 2474 or email: trek@scod.org.uk.

In association with Charitytrek – one of Scotland's leading service providers in the organisation and management of fully supported walks and treks.



As the 'Voice of Deaf People', SCoD is the lead organisation for deaf issues in Scotland.

We represent organisations working with and on behalf of Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people. Our membership provides an effective working partnership between the Voluntary Sector, Social Work and Education Departments, NHS Trusts, Health Boards and the Government.

Membership Fee

Band	Income/Turnover	Fee
1	up to £50k	£50
2	up to £100k	£100
3	up to £250k	£125
4	up to £500k	£150
5	up to £1million	£200
6	over £1million	£300

Support us

Ask your employer about payroll giving



Donate by text

JustTextGiving™

by **vodafone**

To donate £10:

£ 10 →

Text the message:

SCOD27 £10

To this number:

70070



Donate online



➔ **mydonate.bt.com/**
and search for **scod**
or
link directly from our site:
➔ **www.scod.org.uk**

**LEAVE A
LEGACY IN
YOUR WILL**



Join us

SCoD membership offers excellent benefits, including the opportunity to shape government policy and improve the lives of deaf people in Scotland.

Renewable annually, **full membership** runs from April 1st to March 31st of the following year. Full membership is open to organisations only.

Full SCoD Membership Application Form

Organisation

I wish to become a Band Member (see table above for banding)

Key contact

Address

Postcode

Voice

Text

Fax

SMS

Email

Web

Please invoice me at the address shown ☐

I enclose a cheque or postal order payable to the Scottish Council on Deafness ☐

Once completed, please post or fax this page to us using the details below