



Deaf History Project Gains Momentum
BSL Bill Consultation Launched
The Deaf Achievement Scotland Study



WELCOME...

...to the 22nd issue of
SCoDNEWS!

As always, this issue provides an overview of the past six months in the life of SCoD. Articles from core and project staff present a fascinating

insight into our activities.

We were delighted to learn that the Achievement of Deaf Pupils (ADPS) project, which ended in 2005 has been injected with new life thanks to support from the Nuffield Foundation - more about this on page 3. Linda Sharkey talks about her role as Hearing Concern LINK Scotland Manager on page 4. We are especially excited about the BSL Bill Consultation and hope you will be too. Our language needs more than mere recognition - it needs protection and formal legal status. Find out more about the consultation and - more importantly - how you can get involved on page 10.

Lilian Lawson OBE
SCoD Director

FEATURES

- 3 Deaf Achievement Scotland Study
- 4 The Hearing Concern LINK Files
- 5 Informed Consent
- 6 Policy & Research
- 8 ISHARA
- 9 SCoD Deaf History Project
- 10 BSL Bill Consultation
- 11 Citizens Advice Scotland
- 12 Patient Rights
- 12 SCoD Counselling Awareness Project
- 14 A Musical for Cochlear Implant Users
- 15 Support SCoD
- 15 Become a SCoD Associate

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

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Information in BSL



Violence Against Women DVD

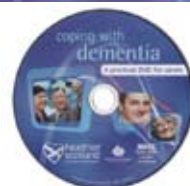
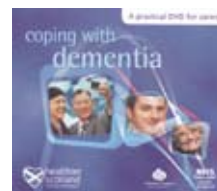
The Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership in conjunction with Deaf Connections, Wise Women and the Greater Glasgow Training Consortium launched a DVD for deaf and hard of hearing women

on violence against women issues. The DVD is bundled with a leaflet pack which will be used to run deaf awareness training for statutory and voluntary organisations.

For further information you can contact Kirsti Hay, Violence Against Women Policy Team, at Glasgow City Council: Kirsti.Hay@glasgow.gov.uk

Coping with Dementia: a practical DVD for carers

An inclusive DVD has been launched to accompany the popular Coping with Dementia handbook for carers. Copies can be ordered through Alzheimer Scotland. Content is also accessible online through NHS HealthScotland channel on YouTube.



Debt Advice DVD



Lots of people have debt for many different reasons. You may owe money to people and have debt, or worry that you may soon be in debt. It is essential that you get debt advice quickly. Radio adverts regularly direct hearing people to money advice agencies, but these are not accessible to members of the Deaf community. Thanks to a generous grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the BDA has produced a BSL DVD which provides help and advice for individuals who might be struggling to meet their financial commitments. The DVD is free so if you know of any Deaf person who might benefit from this, request a copy from Diane McCabe at the BDA dianem@bda.org.uk.

Cover photograph: SCoD Director Lilian Lawson OBE being interviewed for the Deaf History Project in the Kibble Palace at Glasgow's Botanic Gardens.



From 2000 until 2005, the Achievement of Deaf Pupils in Scotland (ADPS) project collected data on all deaf children across Scotland who were visited at least twice a year by a teacher of deaf children.

The late Dr Mary Brennan led this research, funded by the Scottish Government and based in the Scottish Sensory Centre – part of the University of Edinburgh Moray House School of Education.

The Nuffield Foundation has now funded a follow-up study (the Deaf Achievement Scotland Study) to track what has happened to the group of 2,122 children and look back at the period 2000 – 2005 to try to discover what factors made a difference to their achievements.

The study team is Rachel O'Neill (Lecturer in Deaf Education), Professor Marc Marschark (Honorary Professor of Deaf Education), and Dr Martha Whiteman (Research Fellow). The research is guided by a reference group. On this reference group are representatives from the Scottish Deaf Youth Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and the Scottish Council on Deafness.

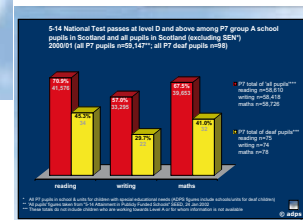
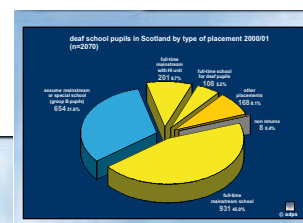
The first phase of the new project will involve trying to find young deaf people aged 18-28 who were at school in Scotland between 2000-2005. We would like to find out what has happened to them since leaving school. We are designing a



by Martha Whiteman and Rachel O'Neill

survey which will be put online. The survey will have BSL clips to view for each question, and the questions will also be written in plain English. We will ask young people for their views of their educational experiences, as well as asking them about their exams, further education, employment and activities. We will be trying to find as many young deaf people as we can who were at school in Scotland between 2000-2005, as the more people that join in with the study, the more we can learn about how school experiences relate to later outcomes for deaf people. This type of study has not been done in Scotland before. It has the potential to contribute to educational policy and practice and improve opportunities for future generations.

Learn how it all began by visiting the ADPS website: www.education.ed.ac.uk/adps/ There you will be able to download statistics and view a wealth of content in BSL.



If you would like further information about the study, please email deafachieve@ed.ac.uk, text 07938 172100, telephone 0131 650 6650, or to have a conversation in BSL, contact Rachel O'Neill: rachel.oneill@ed.ac.uk to set up a Skype session.



The Hearing Concern LINK Files

Linda Sharkey is the Scotland Manager at Hearing Concern LINK Scotland

Tell me about Hearing Concern LINK

We are a UK charity that provides support and information to people with a hearing loss - and their families... we think it's important to recognise the impact that hearing loss has on the whole family unit. We have main offices in Eastbourne and Edinburgh - I'm based in Edinburgh at the Eric Liddell Centre - and we operate through paid staff and volunteers. Many of our volunteers are deafened or hard of hearing themselves.

What does your work as Scotland Manager at Hearing Concern LINK involve?

I've worked for Hearing Concern LINK for two and a half years, and have a very varied job - sometimes I'm at my desk, checking emails, writing reports and such. Sometimes, I am out working directly with people who have hearing loss; they might be service users or Hearing Concern LINK volunteers. Other days, I'm at meetings - I have a lot of meetings. I give up a lot of Saturdays too, most of our courses run at weekends so that people who work can access them. The hours can be quite variable, I don't get bored!

Could you tell us a little bit about yourself - your education, interests, past work experiences?

I enjoyed school; I went to high school in Stirling and in particular liked English and Biology. I thought that I wanted to work in education, in some

way - but by talking with the careers service ended up training as an Audiologist. I kind of fell into Audiology, I suppose - but I really enjoyed it. I also studied healthcare management later on, I'm a bit of a geek when it comes to this stuff - I really love looking at organisational behaviour!

How did you come to join Hearing Concern LINK?

I was still working as an Audiologist in the NHS when I saw the job ad. I had previously referred people to their services - even before they were established in Scotland - and I really knew that it was an organisation I rated, and would be happy to work in...so I applied for the job, and here I am.

What is a typical day at work like?

A circus plate-spinning performance! I guess most people feel like that nowadays. I work with a small staff based in Edinburgh and it's great when I'm with them, we all get on really well and they're really positive and enthusiastic. If I'm out & about at meetings, because the deaf world is relatively small I tend to see



Linda and Khayrun

many of the same people from other organisations regularly, I have made some good friends this way. Much of what I do is about raising awareness of hearing loss, challenging services that are not accessible and trying to make sure that deafened and hard of hearing people are as well supported as they can be.

How does your role affect people - either directly, or indirectly?

Directly, I often see people with hearing loss and am happy to act as a source of information for them. I regularly put people in touch with our volunteers or other services to ensure that they get support.

Indirectly, I am involved in trying to shape how public services are delivered for deaf people in Scotland - hopefully the work of Hearing Concern LINK, and of the other organisations we work alongside, is making a difference to people's lives.

What's good about your job?

The people.
At Hearing Concern LINK we have brilliant people who care so much



The Eric Liddell Centre

about what they do. Khayrun, who is the Scotland Administrator does a great job at keeping me organised! Our volunteers – I am amazed at these really skilled, talented people giving of themselves and their time; just for the satisfaction of helping out someone who has difficulties with hearing loss. Partnerships - working jointly with SCoD and other organisations to have a stronger voice is really rewarding.

What difficulties do you face in your job?

Like every other organisation, we have been hit by the recession and the knock-on funding implications...it's a difficult time. It's also really disappointing when someone comes, and they've had a hearing loss for 20 or 30 years but didn't know there were ANY support services available – I hate that. People need information when they become deaf – it's everyone's responsibility to work together and share what we know.

What's your most bizarre work experience?

Getting stuck in London last year when all the trains, planes and tubes stopped. It was totally surreal to see central London at a complete standstill. My hotel room price jumped £100 when I tried to add on an extra night ...and the worst thing was, I was covering the meeting for someone else!

What would be your ideal job?

A writer...books, poetry, whatever. I love books & it would be great to just write for a living. But I'm happy with Hearing Concern LINK as the alternative!

The Eric Liddell Centre
15 Morningside Road
Edinburgh EH10 4DP
Tel/Text: 0131 447 9420
linda.sharkey@hearingconcernlink.org

There will be many times in your life when you will be asked to give your consent to something.

You are buying a TV online and the form asks you to tick a box that allows the company to share your details with others who sell TVs and other electrical goods.

You take part in a survey and the interviewer asks if your details can be shared with organisations that carry out surveys.

These are fairly easy decisions to make – do you want your email inbox filling up with product offers, some of which you might be interested in, some that won't interest you at all? Do you want to take part in a survey every week or not?

But what happens when...

...you are asked to give your consent to medical treatment?

...as a parent, you are asked to give your consent so that your child can take part in a camping trip or sex education?

...your family become worried about your ability to cope at home and they want you to accept care or move into a home?

What does "informed consent" actually mean?

To give informed consent means that you have been given enough appropriate information about what is being suggested, enough time to ask questions before you decide the course of action that you want to take and are given enough support to make sure that the decision to give consent or not is the right one for you.

Do you give informed consent to medical treatment?

Do you know exactly what your child will be doing?

Do you know what your options are if your family is worried about you?

Mandy, our Policy & Research Officer, wants you to contact her about your experiences of giving consent and whether or not you think you gave "informed consent" to medical treatment, for your child to take part in a particular activity, or when being assessed by social services. Her contact details are on the next page.



Policy & Research

with Mandy Reid

As you know, there was a General Election in May; because of this, policy work has not taken its usual break at the start of a new year as the UK Government wanted to get the Equality Bill through all the parliamentary stages before the electioneering started. The Bill is now the Equality Act 2010, and it will be up to the new government to decide when it will be enacted.

In readiness for the Act going live, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) held a consultation on their Codes of Practice - for employers, service providers; and at the same time held a consultation on "What the Equality Act 2010 means for you as – an employer; an employee; a service provider; someone who accesses services; education providers; and students, parents and pupils". The EHRC is in the process of setting up a research project to look at disability and harassment. Interested organisations and individuals were asked for their opinions on the terms of reference for the research.

Mental Health

In 2008, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (NHS GG&C) held a stakeholders event to look at putting together an Integrated Care Pathway for Deaf, deafened and deafblind mental health service users. In 2009, the chair of the Sensory Impairment and Mental Health Working Group moved to another job and this working group stopped meeting. I submitted a question for the NHS GG&C Annual Review asking why the service users that had attended the event in 2008 had not received any feedback and why the working group had not been reconvened. Having been given several guarantees

– reinstatement of the working group, a second stakeholder event to give feedback, and a detailed action plan – I agreed to withdraw the question. On the 1st March this year, the second stakeholder event took place and the working group has now been scheduled to meet at least four times a year to look at the Integrated Care Pathway, access to Community Mental Health Teams, accessible inpatient services and access to independent advocacy.

Census 2011

Regular readers will be aware that SCoD and four of our member organisations – Signature, Hayfield Support Services with Deaf People, Hearing Concern LINK and Mile End Unit for Deaf & HI People – have been campaigning for the inclusion of a detailed deaf question in the 2011 Census. This involved writing many letters to the General Register Office for Scotland, the Scottish Government, the Minister for Public Health and the General Registrar for Scotland. Lilian and I met with Duncan McNiven, the General Registrar for Scotland to discuss the issue and to look at how accessible the Census will be for deaf people. Duncan McNiven agreed in principle that deaf organisations will be involved in helping deaf people to complete their Census forms; and that enumerators will have some deaf awareness training. Both he and the Scottish Government told us that the question we asked for would not be included in the Census form, but that a question about BSL will be.

Number of deaf people living in Scotland

Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health, made the suggestion that the data sets that NHS Scotland use to record and monitor patient

information could be a source of statistics on the numbers of deaf people in Scotland. SCoD wrote to the Scottish Government asking for a meeting to discuss how to gather information on patients' levels of deafness and their communication support needs. As a result of this letter, we met with NHS National Services Scotland, the public body that provides external support to local Health Boards. The National Clinical Dataset Development Programme support team have agreed to work with us to look at how best to record this information; and the Equality Information Programme Manager will work with us to address the practicalities of ensuring all patient records contain information on communication support needs.

I attended the Scottish Government and Scottish Centre for Social Research event on "Attitudes to Discrimination Social Survey". The results of this survey are used by the Scottish Government to monitor discrimination in Scotland. The only questions that are included about disability are about access to shops and banks, and whether or not a person with a disability should be interviewed for a job if they meet all the necessary requirements for the job. The rest of the questions are about race, religion and belief, gender and sexuality. Having contacted the Scottish Government about the content of the questionnaire and whether or not the survey is accessible to deaf people, the Communities Analytical Services have agreed to meet us to look at the issues raised.

If you would like to know more about my work or get involved in our consultation responses, please contact mandy@scod.org.uk or tele/textphone 0141 248 1854.



festival theatre
edinburgh



king's theatre
edinburgh

Captioned and BSL Interpreted Performances at the **Festival** and **King's** Theatres Edinburgh

What is Captioning?



Captions are similar to television subtitles. They convert the spoken word to text, which is displayed on a caption unit at either side of the stage.



KING'S THEATRE **Calendar Girls**

Captioned **CAP**
Thu 23 Sept
7.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Fri 24 Sept
7.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Punk Rock**

BSL Interpreted
Fri 1 Oct
7.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Carrie's War**

Captioned **CAP**
Thu 7 Oct
7.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Fri 8 Oct
7.30pm



FESTIVAL THEATRE **Sunshine on Leith**

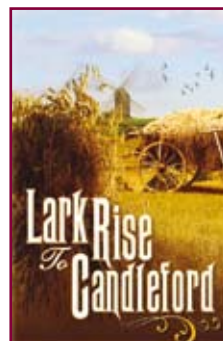
Captioned **CAP**
Thu 14 Oct
7.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Fri 15 Oct
7.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Bedroom Farce**

BSL Interpreted
Sat 16 Oct
2.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Lark Rise to Candleford**

Captioned **CAP**
Thu 21 Oct
7.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Sat 23 Oct
2.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **2 Pianos 4 Hands**

BSL Interpreted
Fri 5 Nov
7.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Enron**

Captioned **CAP**
Thu 11 Nov
7.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Fri 12 Nov
7.30pm



FESTIVAL THEATRE **The Secret Garden**

BSL Interpreted
Sat 18 Dec
2.30pm

BSL Interpreted
Fri 7 Jan 2011
7.30pm



KING'S THEATRE **Jack and the Beanstalk**

BSL Interpreted
Fri 17 Dec
7.00pm

BSL Interpreted
Sat 8 Jan
2.00pm

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For a copy of our full Access Brochure or if you have any queries please email:
emma.robertson@eft.co.uk

• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



The Ishara Project was set up in 2008. The word “Ishara” means “to sign or gesture” in the South Asian languages, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

The project, which has a national remit, builds on the work carried out previously by the Deaf BME Community project in Glasgow. Ishara is funded by the Scottish Government Race Religion and Refugee Integration Programme until 2011. The aim is to work with agencies and build their knowledge and confidence to work with deaf BME people. This would help mainstream some of the current practises into existing public agencies as well as community agencies who deal with deaf, BME, faith and refugee communities. Ishara carries this work out through training and partnerships on key pieces of work. For example, Ishara is working with the Scottish Refugee Council to raise awareness of needs of deaf asylum seekers to the Home Office. Ishara also has specialist areas of work with their resource development programmes. The project has been consulted and received training on issues

such as Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence. This training has enabled Ishara to work on creating BSL resources as these issues currently do not have information in BSL. The project was successful in completing a BSL webpage with partners Shakti Women's Aid and the Scottish Government regarding Forced Marriage. The page can be found on Deaf Connections website. Ishara will also be working on the sensitive issue of Honour Based Violence which is an increasing problem for some of the BME communities in the UK. Other specialist issues will be researched and created as BSL resources, enabling deaf BME people and the deaf community in general to learn about some of the different cultural issues that affect deaf BME people across Scotland.

If you would like any more information about the work of Ishara, please contact Tasnim Sharif at Ishara email: tasnim@deafconnections.co.uk textphone: 0141 420 2171 or SMS 07749311524



don't leave me out!

information sheets for politicians



The Access to Democracy project, which ended in March of this year, highlighted the fact that politicians could do with a deaf awareness briefing.

So we decided to put together some information sheets specifically tailored for MEPs, MPs, MSPs and local councillors. Copies have now been sent out to all Scottish MEPs, all local councillors, all MSPs and all MPs - including those newly elected. The reverse of the sheet offers an explanation

of the terms: Deaf Sign Language user, Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. While these leaflets are available to download from our website (News & Information, SCoD Publications) we are keen to ensure that paper copies end up in the right hands.

If you are concerned that your MEP, MP, MSP, or Councillor is not as deaf aware as he or she could be, then pop into the SCoD offices to collect an information sheet.

Presenting the Past: My Firsts

By the end of March, SCoD Director Lilian Lawson had visited members of Deaf communities in: Aberdeen, Dundee, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Galashiels and Kirkcaldy. The reason for all this travel? To spread news about the Scottish Deaf Heritage Project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and recruit volunteers with stories to tell.

The Scottish Oral History Centre (at the University of Strathclyde) then delivered an excellent training day for Deaf interviewers. Presenters Arthur McIvor and Angela Bartie introduced the background and development of oral history, its uses, its value and outlined what it has achieved. This was followed by some examples of signed projects on DVD from England and Northern Ireland. They then described the interview preparation process, including topic and question familiarity and the importance of

establishing rapport with the interviewees. In the afternoon a practical session allowed potential interviewers to practice their skills in groups and in front of the camera.

Since this training, Lilian has been searching for appropriate venues and locations for filming and has drawn up a tight film schedule running from April through to October. Venues include the Old Gala House in Galashiels, the Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery, the Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park, the Glasgow Botanics and People's Palace.

While an impressive 58 deaf people have already volunteered to be filmed, we have yet to secure individuals from Moray and the Shetland Islands. Deaf Orcadian Hamish Rosie has kindly agreed to come to Glasgow for filming in August. Keep checking our website for further updates on our progress.



Are you a Deaf BSL user with memories to share? Would like to get involved with this project? Please contact Lilian Lawson at SCoD. Contact details are on the back page.

A BSL Act for Scotland

18th March 2003 is a date that resonates within the Deaf community.

On this day the UK Government formally recognised BSL (British Sign Language) as a language in its own right. While recognition is good, the language still has no force in law. Enter the BSL Bill consultation; the first step on the road to a BSL Act which will afford the language the same protection, status and rights as any other indigenous language.

Following many months of discussion, the Cross Party Group on Deafness (CPGD) agreed to approve a consultation paper on the BSL Bill at their meeting in the Parliament in December 2009. Since then, Convenor Cathie Craigie MSP has been trying to get the consultation through in this parliamentary session to allow submission to the Non-Executive Bills Unit before the end of the current parliamentary session, which ends in May 2011. As the "cut-off date" for this session is 1st June, this would have meant no time for a full consultation with deaf people, their families, deaf and deafblind organisations and other interested bodies.

Cathie Craigie MSP, said:

"I am pleased that the consultation period on my proposed BSL Bill has begun. It will give fellow politicians, community groups, public bodies, deaf organisations and the general public a chance to scrutinise the proposals and give opinions on them.

Since the commencement of Devolution eleven years ago, the Parliament has been at the forefront in seeking equal opportunities across the length and breadth of Scotland. I am hoping that this Bill will provide accessibility, opportunity and fairness to all BSL users in Scotland and rid the existing inequality."

At their last meeting, the CPGD agreed to a BSL Bill consultation running until 29th October. Cathie Craigie MSP would then submit the Bill to Parliament, hopefully with the required number of signatures from supporting MSPs. If she is not re-elected in May, another MSP will pick it up with her approval and run it through the next parliament. The consultation paper contains a number of sections, including a foreword from Cathie Craigie MSP, a description of the position in other countries (in particular Finland and New Zealand), an outline of the current position in Scotland, a discussion of deaf people and fair and equitable access to all aspects of life in Scotland.

In the final section, 'areas for consideration', you are invited to respond to the following four questions:

Do you believe British Sign Language should be granted legal recognition and protection by the Scottish Government?

How can the number of people able to use British Sign Language be increased?

Do you think Deaf people in Scotland should be able to access information and services in British Sign Language?

Do you agree that the parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members of deaf babies and toddlers in Scotland should have the opportunity to access free BSL classes in order to be able to communicate effectively with the child?



The more responses that this consultation receives, the greater will be the chance of getting this Bill through the Scottish Parliament. So please read and respond!

Send your response – in English or BSL - to Cathie Craigie at the Scottish Parliament. The full consultation paper can be downloaded from our website, www.scod.org.uk A BSL version is available on the BSL: UPTAKE website www.bsluptake.org.uk

How to make a Scottish law

The process begins with the formulation of policy.
If it is decided that primary legislation is required to implement the policy, a Bill will need to be developed.

The Government will consult widely before legislation is put before Parliament, probably both on the policy proposals and later also on a draft Bill.

Parliamentary Committees will still expect to take evidence on Bills, however, no matter how extensive the Executive's consultations have been.

When the Bill is introduced to the Parliament, there are three stages that it must pass through:

Stage 1:

consideration of the general principles of the Bill by the Parliamentary Committee designated to deal with it. The Committee will report to the Parliament and, if Parliament agrees to the Bill's general principles, it will be referred back to the Committee for...

Stage 2:

detailed consideration of the Bill, including any amendments proposed to it by the Executive and opposition MSPs. This is followed by...

Stage 3:

final consideration of the Bill, as amended, by the Parliament who will vote on whether the Bill should be passed.

After successfully completing all three stages, the Bill will be submitted for Royal Assent.

When Royal Assent is received, the Bill becomes an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

In addition to Scottish Ministers, Committees and MSPs can introduce Bills. In certain circumstances, a promoter can also introduce a Private Bill, but that's another story, for another day...

Source: Scottish Government website

citizens advice scotland and deaf access

Edinburgh



Rosie Addis

When my son started school three years ago, I decided to 'do something different' from my usual work as a BSL/English interpreter, and instead volunteer at my local Citizen's Advice office twice a week. As a Generalist Adviser, I provide free and confidential information on areas including:
Money problems
Benefits (eg helping to

apply for DLA)
Housing (eg difficulty with common repairs, problems with the neighbours)
Relationships (eg divorce, seeing children, what to do when someone dies)
Consumer issues (eg problems with shop goods, or online shopping)
If you are a BSL user, you can either book an appointment at any office and they may arrange for an interpreter, or you could come to the Portobello office on Bath Street, Edinburgh.

To arrange an appointment, please email Laura Plumb:
portobello@citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk

Dundee

Dundee CAB has an advisor in training who is also a registered trainee British Sign Language/English interpreter.

Julie Morrison is available to see D/deaf clients on Wednesday afternoons from 4.30pm to 6.30pm by appointment. Julie has been working with the D/deaf community in England and Scotland for eleven years now and is currently studying level 4 BSL/English NVQ interpreting units. She started her training with the CAB last year and has found the experience very rewarding and a great way to get to know the local community.



Julie says:

"The staff are supportive and very knowledgeable and I really enjoy advising with them. We see all sorts of people with a huge range of problems, or who need advice or signposting. I am very pleased that the CAB is making my session available to D/deaf people and it is hugely encouraging that SCoD and the CAB are working together to encourage D/deaf people to become advisors"

If you would like to see Julie for general advice, please get in touch.

Opening hours:
Mon, Tue, Thur: 9.30am-4pm
Wed: Appointments only
Fri: 9.30am - 12noon
Telephone Advice:
Mon - Fri, 10am-3pm

Wellgate Office
Dundee Central Library
Level 4, Wellgate Centre
DUNDEE DD1 1DB
Tel: 01382 307494
Fax: 01382 431590

Patient Rights

Nicola Sturgeon, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, introduced the Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill to the Scottish Parliament on 17th of March this year. The Scottish Government carried out a consultation on their proposal for this Bill last year. The Bill is now at stage one of the process – see page 11 for more information on the various stages. In May, the Health and Sport Committee asked for written evidence and we sent in a paper. SCoD would like to thank the members of Hearing Concern LINK and other readers who contributed their stories for this paper.

The principles of this Bill are:

Anything done to you takes into account your needs.
You are treated with dignity and respect.
Your privacy and confidentiality are respected.
Health care is provided in a caring and compassionate manner.
Consideration is given to:
The importance of providing optimal benefit to your health and wellbeing.
The range of options available.

Health care is based on current recognised clinical guidance.
You will be able to participate as fully as possible in decisions about your health and wellbeing having been given the information and support you need.
You will treat all health staff with dignity and respect.
Communications will be clear, accessible and understood.
Concerns will be dealt with reasonably, promptly and with due process.

What else is in the Bill?

The Bill introduces a guaranteed treatment time of 12 weeks and a “Patient Advice and Support Service” so that you can give “feedback” about your care and treatment.

If your Health Board is unable to provide you with the information and appropriate communication support that you need to be able to participate in decisions about your care and treatment, will Scottish Ministers use their powers to extend the 12 week treatment guarantee?

But >>>

Read the full Bill by downloading it from the Scottish Parliament website (type carefully!):

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/42-PatientRights/b42s3-introd.pdf



Counselling

First – some good news! Additional support from the Big Lottery Fund has allowed this project to extend until January 2011.

The extra funding sees our focus expand to assist people affected by the recession. This will involve liaison with citizens advice bureaux (CAB), jobcentre plus, debt counselling services and credit unions, as well as continuing with our training provision to GPs, health professionals and counsellors. The project will therefore continue as before, with some added extras. We will now be able to support deaf people hit by the recession and experiencing financial difficulties. Services such as the CAB help those with money troubles – but how accessible are they to deaf and deafblind people?

The extended funding will allow us to work with these and other services by meeting with them to discuss accessibility and to provide Deaf and Deafblind Awareness Training.

Increasing knowledge of counselling amongst deaf and deafblind people

I have continued to visit lipreading classes to talk about counselling. Most visits have been really successful and in some classes we were able to get a good discussion going with the class members all inputting their views and opinions to the session. It always makes to an enjoyable visit when the class is so responsive and willing to give feedback.

So far, most of those who have benefitted from the project have been over the age of 30. To try to reach younger deaf and deafblind people myself and Shelagh Douglas were invited to Motherwell College in December last year and to Donaldson's at the start of

Are you Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or deafblind?

Have you had support for money problems from Citizens Advice Scotland, Credit Unions, Debt Counselling services or any other support organisations? If yes, we would be very interested to hear about your experiences, good and bad. Please get in touch with the Project Co-ordinator, Barbra Wylie

Awareness Project Extended



March to talk to the students about counselling and how to go about accessing it should they require it. Thankfully both groups had teachers and tutors who are very aware and will be able to point pupils in the right direction should they require support. I will hopefully be meeting with more younger deaf people in the near future.

An independent workshop was set up in Dumbarton on 10th December aimed at deaf and deafblind people in West Dunbartonshire. Unfortunately it was a very poor turnout with only two people attending.

Make services more accessible through work with GPs, counsellors and other health professionals

The successful Deaf and Deafblind Awareness Training sessions have been continuing. Following feedback, we have actually added an extra half hour to each of the sessions as people were keen for the training to be longer. This allows us to include more important information.

So far this year myself, Deafblind Scotland's trainer Stephen Joyce and either Michael Davis or Trudi Collier have travelled to Aberdeen, Perth, Kilmarnock, Hawick and Dunfermline trying to reach as many counsellors, GPs, health professionals and social work staff as possible.

To date, over 150 people have had their awareness of accessibility issues raised

through attending Deaf and Deafblind Awareness Training. It is hoped that they will take what they have learned back to workplaces and cascade it throughout their organisations with the ultimate aim of improving accessibility for deaf and deafblind people.

I am planning a further session in Argyll and Bute during the summer months. I have been contacted by services that have a large amount of staff interested in training and asked to hold training just for them, which I am happy to do.

Increase awareness of counselling training pathways

Last year we held two workshops - in Dundee and Glasgow - for deaf and deafblind people interested in finding out more about the training opportunities available in their local areas should they want to become a counsellor.

In January a third event was held in Aberdeen with the support of Aberdeen College and The University of Aberdeen. Three people came along to learn more from the College and University staff whose presentations were packed with useful information.

In a few months, I plan to contact these attendees to find out if they decided to train and to learn about their experiences.

Evaluation

The project evaluation is underway for those who attended events in 2009.

For the group who attended the Awareness Training session, the questionnaire sent to them is designed to discover whether they have been able to put into practice what they learned on the day in order to make services more accessible to deaf and deafblind people.

The overall aim of their attendance was to improve accessibility of their service to deaf and deafblind people; it is therefore hoped that their questionnaire responses will allow us to evaluate this part of the project successfully.

People who attended a Counselling Awareness Workshop, will also be sent a questionnaire. This time it asks if they have accessed counselling or attempted to access counselling since attending the workshop and to record their experiences.

The evaluation process will be ongoing throughout the rest of the project so if anyone receives a questionnaire please complete and return. Your support is much appreciated.



More information from Barbra Wylie
Tel/Text 0141 221 2991
email barbra@scod.org.uk

Dates of all future events including workshops are posted on our website: www.scod.org.uk

DEACON

A Musical for
Cochlear Implant
Users

The music perception abilities of cochlear implant (CI) users is an issue that is currently the focus of much research and interest, however, a great deal of this work tends to focus on how well people can hear certain elements of music, such as pitch or rhythm, for example. I believe that, by focusing exclusively on such elements, this type of research often overlooks other important aspects of musical experience that affect people's general enjoyment of and relationship with music.

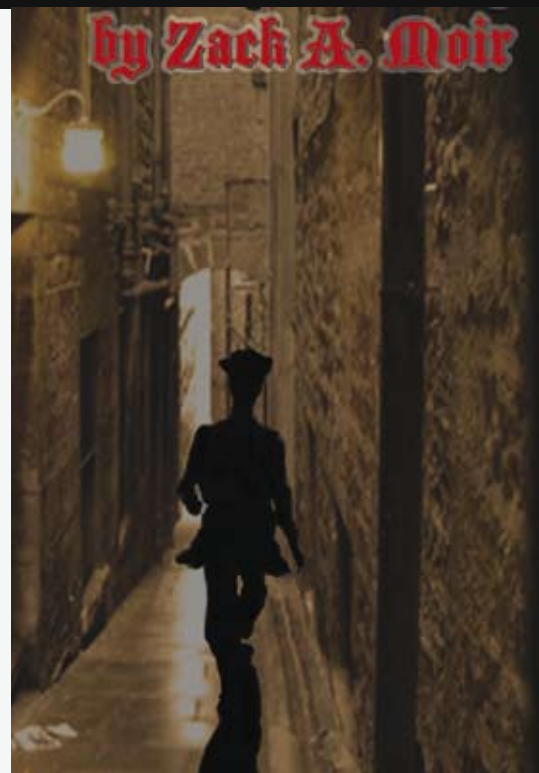
One element of my research, which aims to improve the musical experiences of CI users, is a piece of music entitled, **Deacon** (commissioned by MED-EL UK) which is a multi-media production specifically composed to be enjoyable and comprehensible for CI users in an attempt to provide positive musical experiences. The show consists of nine pieces of music interspersed with animated narrations telling the story of Deacon Brodie, an infamous 18th Century Edinburgh villain. The narrative is captioned.

Contact with many CI users has shown that implant-mediated

musical experience can vary dramatically between people and that a wide range of problems exists which can make music listening challenging. Conversely however, amongst CI users, a number of common positive elements are stated, such as a general preference for: low pitched musical sounds, rhythmic music and familiar music.

Additionally, there is a high degree of commonality with regard to the instruments that CI users reported as sounding pleasant or unpleasant.

Therefore, an ensemble of acoustic guitar, cello, drum-kit, bass guitar, saxophone and a male-vocalist is used to perform music which includes specifically composed material and specialised arrangements of well-known Scottish traditional music. The theatrical nature of the storyline and production, coupled with the inclusion of familiar traditional Scottish melodies were intended to facilitate comprehension by providing a coherent context and recognisable cultural references.



Zack Moir is a musician, composer and PhD student in music at the University of Edinburgh, working within the Institute for Music in Human and Social Development (IMHSD). His PhD focuses on the improvement of musical experience for CI users.

You can contact Zack to find out more about his research:
email: zack@zackmoir.com
website: <http://www.zackmoir.com>



This DVD/CD Package of this show has been published by MED-EL UK and is available free of charge. The package consists of a DVD of the full show and a CD of the music.

Order your copy by contacting Charles Mitchell
email: charles.mitchell@medel.com
tel (v): 01226 242874



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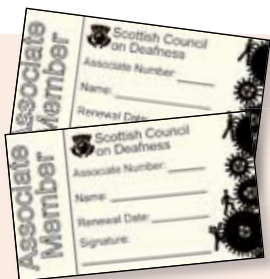
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Associate Membership with SCoD was launched in April 2008. Since that time we have seen a steady growth. Members are enjoying many benefits, including the monthly bulletin, reports on business at parliament, this newsletter and invitations to our meetings: all for only £20 each year. This can be paid with a single sum annually or split into four £5 payments throughout the year if you set up a standing order with us.

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Email will be our preferred means of keeping in touch with you. Please enter your email address.

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I enclose a cheque for £20 payable to "Scottish Council on Deafness" ☐

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To the Manager

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Deafness

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Bank of Scotland, Crieff
Branch

Sort Code: 80 06 21

on the day of
and **quarterly** thereafter
until further notice.

Signed

Date



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You can become a SCoD Associate at any time and it only costs £20 each year. Complete the application form on page 15 or download a copy from our website: www.scod.org.uk.



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

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