

Scottish Sensory Awards

The inaugural Scottish Sensory Awards were held on 15th February in Stirling Court Hotel.

The Scottish Sensory Awards were created to recognise the extent of the range of work with hearing impaired, visually impaired and dual sensory impaired people.

The event was a fabulous celebration of good work being acknowledged in the field of sensory impairments.

Deafblind Scotland's Training Officer Stephen Joyce was a runner up in the Personal and Workforce Development category. He was nominated by his colleagues for going above and beyond in teaching and promoting the work of Deafblind Scotland.

Counterweight with Deafblind Scotland was a runner up in Promoting Partnership Working Across All Services for People With Sensory Loss. Counterweight with Deafblind Scotland was sponsored by Network Rail. This programme allowed the promotion of healthy eating and healthy living to be accessible to people who were dual sensory impaired and had a variety of communication needs. The programme was a fantastic success and all the members involved reported positive changes.

Adam Ford and The Montgomerie Arms Team won the award for Unsung Heroes. Adam was nominated for learning deafblind manual to communicate with one of his customers and to make him part of the social activity at the pub.

A full list of winners and runners up can be found on www.sensoryawardscotland.co.uk



(Photo: Counterweight with Deafblind Scotland sponsored by Network Rail)

Tartan and Turbans Burns Supper

The Third Annual Tartan and Turbans Burns Supper took place on Saturday 6th February in Glasgow City Hotel. Deafblind Scotland was the chosen charity for this year's event with all proceeds going to help build 'Field of Dreams', the new purpose built centre for Deafblind people.

A fantastic fusion of Scottish and Asian cultures came together to celebrate the National Bard Robert Burns.

From Highland to Bhangra dancing the crowd were thoroughly entertained. Guest speakers on the night included John Nicholson MP giving A Toast to the Lassies followed by Kezia Dugdale MSP giving A Reply From The Lassies.



Photo: Hemingway School of Highland Dance



Photo: Dance Lyahami
Photo source: Scottish Asian Magazine



Wee Enterprizers

The Wee Enterprizers project is run by the Social Care Ideas Factory (SCIF) to support people with disabilities to develop their hobby or business ideas into something more.

SCIF explain how it started:

“The Wee Enterprizers (WE) idea sprang from six workshops, held in collaboration with the Social Enterprise Academy (SEA) and attended by representatives from 15 Glasgow service providers.

From these workshops, the participants began to consider ways that the social enterprise model could be applied on a smaller scale and adapted to what was termed a ‘kitchen table business’ model. This concept became the basis for the WE idea.”



There are three interconnected groups of people involved in the WE. At the grass-roots level are the people using additional support, identified here as WE. This group is the intended primary beneficiary of the WE idea. Accompanying the WE are their support teams, comprised of support workers. The key role of the support team is to work with the group to help facilitate their involvement in WE. Prior to this they would assist the person they supported when required with day-to-day tasks such as managing their homes and assisting with personal care or social support.

Supporting the individual in this way means that the needs of the person are met whether at their work, at home or in their community, but they are also assisted to plan their future career aspirations too.

Behind the scenes are the partner organisations: Key Community Supports and their sister Organisations, Community Lifestyles, C-Change, Deafblind Scotland and Capability Scotland.

Deafblind Scotland member and Director, Alison, explains the positive impact the Wee Enterprizers project had on setting up her complementary therapies business.

“All of us has had great help from SCIF who helped us understand:

- what action we would need to do to make it happen
- what makes a good business and how to keep it going
- training on book-keeping
- how to do an inventory
- how to setup a website for your business.”

For more information:

<http://socialcareideasfactory.com/our-projects/wee-enterprizers/>

Alison’s business website:

www.equilibriumtherapies.org

Grand Canyon Trek

Paddington, John Whitfield and his guide Leah set off from Edinburgh on the 5th of March, flying very early to Heathrow where they meet up with the other intrepid trekkers and the crew on their Grand Canyon adventure.

John describes the experience:

"After a long haul of travelling we arrive at the Canyon and spend four days and over 40 miles hiking across a variety of terrains. We will be rough camping overnight in tepees, with no modern conveniences like electricity and hot and cold running water. It is definitely not a luxurious holiday! So far I have managed to raise just over £4000 of the £5000 target I had set. It has been a much more difficult to fundraise in this economic climate, than in previous years. If anyone would like to help out to support Deafblind Scotland and Paddington raise the £5000 to go towards the Field of Dreams project then we would be most grateful."

<https://www.justgiving.com/John-Whitfield>



Bills, Consultations, Publications and Reports

Social Care Services, Scotland, 2015

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/5804>

Latest national figures for Social Care services provided or purchased by Local Authorities in Scotland.

Active Scotland Outcomes: Indicator Equality Analysis

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/9439>

This report presents an analysis of equality data across the indicators from the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. Many data gaps were highlighted. However, available evidence points to inequality of opportunities and outcomes for all groups with protected characteristics across all the Active Scotland outcomes.

Literature Review on the Impact of Digital Technology on Learning and Teaching

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/7786>

This literature review was commissioned by the Scottish Government to explore how the use of digital technology for learning and teaching can support teachers, parents, children and young people in improving outcomes and achieving our ambitions for education in Scotland.

Too many pupils with a sensory impairment still being let down

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/92448.aspx>

Many pupils with a visual or hearing impairment are still not getting the same opportunities as their peers. This is just one of the findings in a report issued by the Scottish Parliament's Education and Culture Committee.

Holyrood report: loneliness 'as damaging to Scots health as poverty and poor housing'

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/93466.aspx>

The Equal Opportunities Committee launches its report on the extent and impact of social isolation on older and younger people living in Scotland.

Investing in community sight services

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Investing-in-community-sight-services-2230.aspx>

All patients in Scotland will have access to enhanced screening for glaucoma at their local optometrist following Scottish Government funding for new equipment.

Projects

Connect to Welfare Rights

The “Connect to Welfare Rights” project has now entered its final few months and is currently due to finish at the end of March 2016, subject to funding. The project has been consistently assisting more people each month with welfare rights enquiries, with a high percentage of positive outcomes.

Connect to Welfare Rights has continued to raise awareness of the project through attending events, liaising with local community groups, liaising with other Third Sector organisations and attending sensory impaired support groups.

Please contact Helen or Chris on 0141 777 5830 or WR@deafblindscotland.org.uk if you have any questions or issues in regards to welfare rights, including benefits, income maximisation, concessions, access to information in different formats and rights for sensory impaired adults.

Health Access Project

The project comes to an end on March 31st this year.

This project has uncovered information about how deafblind people are, or are not, included in the Local Authorities and NHS Equality and Diversity policies. There have been disparities in how various areas deal with interpreting and provision of linguistic access for deafblind people. The results from a national questionnaire over the past two years have flagged up both positive and negative points about service provision and equitable accessibility for deafblind people.

John Whitfield, Health Access Officer, will be compiling a report and will be giving recommendations and examples of good practice to feedback to the Scottish Government. This will serve to remind policy makers of the importance of recognising Deafblindness and the unique difficulties experienced in having this condition in order for the necessary provisions to be put in place to meet the needs of Deafblind people.

Contact John on jwparticipation@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Deaf Sector Partnership

The Deaf Sector Partnership is providing support to national public bodies in implementing the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 supporting public bodies to make their services more accessible to deaf / deafblind people.

For more information:

Website: www.deafsectorpartnership.net

Email: dsp@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Telephone: 07584 078494



Training Courses

Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Language: British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate (H3PA 10 and 11)

Full time Intensive courses: one day per week (9.30-4.30)

Level 1: 5/6 Days £300

Level 2: 14/15 weeks £480

Prices inclusive of all training materials and assessments. All courses ILA compatible.

Courses supported by Deafblind Scotland Online Homework and Revision group

Signature Deafblind Guiding and Communication Certificate (DBG2)

This qualification comprises of 3 units and is delivered over a period of 5 full-time days. Units may be taken individually.

Appropriate for those working in Social Work, NHS or care workers in the field, such as day care, home care and residential settings or those who wish to improve their skills, for use in the workplace or elsewhere, when interacting with deafblind people.

This course acknowledges that the largest single group of deafblind people are elderly, most of whom rely on residual sight and hearing.

Dates available for **February/ March**

Hands on Sign

Appropriate for skilled sign language users (minimum BSL Stage 2), skilled guide/communicators supporting the continued use of sign language by deafblind people and for sign language interpreters to continue their work in the deafblind communities. This form of communication is for people whose first language is BSL and sight has deteriorated to the extent that they are not able to distinguish Hands Signing.

Saturday 5th March. Glasgow 9.30-4.30 £100pp

Few places remaining.

For more information on any training courses contact Ellen on trainingadmin@deafblindscotland.org.uk or call 0141 777 6111

Car Raffle Cancellation

It is with great regret that we must inform you that our Christmas Car raffle was cancelled. After much discussion with the Institute of Fundraising, the Gambling Commission and East Dunbartonshire Council, and with due care and consideration, our Board of Trustees has taken the hard decision to refund raffle ticket purchases. Should you wish to claim a refund for any tickets please contact Alison Hardie on 0141 777 6111 or at Alison.hardie@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Sterling Silver Appeal

For over 25 years Deafblind Scotland has been a constant lifeline of assistance, there for deafblind people when they need us, and you can now help continue our critical work by donating to our Sterling Silver Appeal or signing up your business as a Sterling Silver Business Partner.

By donating £25 or pledging to donate more regularly, you will be supporting Deafblind Scotland to continue its work with the deafblind community. Contact our team for donation options or you can text SLVR99 £25 (or other chosen amount) to 70070 .You can also donate online at www.justgiving.com/sterling-silver.

Contact Deafblind Scotland to find out the various benefits your business can have if you donate £25 to the Sterling Silver Appeal.



Referrals

Deafblind Scotland aims to help people in Scotland live as rightful members of their own communities. Membership is free to anyone who has a severe degree of combined visual and auditory impairment resulting in problems with communication, information and mobility. To refer a person call 0141 777 6111 or email membership@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Mailing List

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the Deafblind Scotland Newsletter mailing list to receive this email, or if this mail was forwarded to you and you would like to receive it directly, please contact information@deafblindscotland.org.uk.

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