

Scottish Council on Deafness Annual Report 2004-05



Celebrating 77 years serving Scotland

SCoD is the lead organisation for Deaf issues in Scotland and represents the interests of Deaf Sign Language users, Deafblind, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people





Convener's Statement

Yet another year has passed – and again so quickly! This will be my third and final year as Convener of SCoD since I am due to retire from the Management Committee at the next AGM. I have to say that, despite the responsibility and hard work involved, I have really enjoyed my terms as Convener.

As you will see from the Annual Report and the Director's Report, SCoD has continued to be involved in a number of areas of important work including mental health, the counselling project and awareness training just to name a few. There is no need for me to go into details on these since they are mentioned elsewhere in this Report.

SCoD is continuing to consolidate existing links and to forge new ones. This is an important part of SCoD's work since developing partnerships and creating networks are essential for achieving our aims and objectives. This would not have been possible if we had been working alone and, therefore, I would like to thank all our partners and some of the member organisations for their collaborative work with us.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the staff, the members of the National Council and the past and present members of the Management Committee for their hard work and support during my three years as Convener of SCoD.

A special mention should be made for Lilian Lawson, our Director, for two reasons:

- she has continued to work hard under very difficult personal circumstances, which you may already be aware of
- she has so richly deserved the award of OBE in this year's New Year Honours List for her 25 years of dedicated work to improve the quality of lives of all people who are deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind.

Finally, I would like to wish SCoD and all its members, my very best wishes in its future and hope that it will continue to evolve and expand in the years to come.

Michael Davis



Director's Report

This report shows that SCoD, as usual, has endeavoured to maintain its high profile at the national level, in particular in the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive.

Successful bids for support from the Scottish Executive and Big Lottery Fund have enabled SCoD to kick-start the Counselling Training Project, which is so vital.

Long term, it will help to increase a pool of counsellors (both deaf and hearing) who can communicate with deaf and deafblind people in Scotland.

This, and SCoD's petition for mental health services for deaf and deafblind people, work with NHS Education in Scotland in developing an awareness training pack should all lead to improved mental health and wellbeing of deaf and deafblind people.

There are other issues of concern still to be addressed such as the shortage of specialist social workers, sign language interpreters,

awareness trainers and so forth. SCoD continues to work with member organisations to raise awareness of these issues.

Raising awareness, lobbying and research work are time-consuming but vital.

SCoD is now seeking funding to recruit a new member of staff who will assist SCoD in this work.

During the next financial year, SCoD is planning to recruit a part-time fundraiser to ensure that SCoD's financial base is strengthened for many years to come.

SCoD is grateful to the Scottish Executive, Big Lottery Fund, trusts and individual donors for their financial support, without which SCoD would have struggled to survive or meet its aims and objectives that were set for this financial year.

Your continuing support is much appreciated.

Lilian Lawson OBE

Alan S Macdonald

Alan Macdonald

Treasurer's Report



Summary statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2005	Restricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total 2005 £	Total 2004 £
Incoming resources	58,963	18,193	54,570	131,726	143,094
Resources expended	65,325	18,193	117,124	200,642	(181,769)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources in year	(6,362)	-	(62,554)	(68,916)	(38,675)
Other recognised gains and (losses)	-	-	16,228	16,228	21,308
Balance at 1 April 2004	(6,362)	-	(46,326)	(52,688)	(17,367)
	12,411	-	260,974	273,385	290,752
Balance at 31 March 2005	6,049	-	214,648	220,697	273,385

Balance Sheet

	£	2005 £	£	2004 £
Fixed assets		137,835		182,788
Current assets	99,793		100,378	
Current liabilities	16,931		9,781	
Net current assets		82,862		90,597
Net assets		220,697		273,385
General fund		214,648		260,974
Restricted funds		6,049		12,411
		220,697		273,385

Independent Auditors' Statement

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Scottish Council on Deafness.

Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and Auditors

The Management Committee is responsible for preparing the summarised annual report in accordance with the recommendations of the charities Statement of Recommended Practice (2000).

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Management Committee's Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 "The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement" issued by the Auditing Practices board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Management Committee's report of the Scottish Council on Deafness for the year ended 31 March 2005.

CHIENE & TAIT CA
Registered Auditors
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL



The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were approved on 7 September 2005 and do not constitute the charity's statutory financial statements. The full financial statements have been audited and the auditor's opinion was unqualified.

The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity and do not constitute the charity's statutory financial statements. For further information, the full annual financial statements, the auditors report on these financial statements and management committee's report should be consulted. Copies of the audited financial statements can be obtained by writing to the Scottish Council on Deafness. The Management Committee has decided that the reserves policy is equivalent to 50% of annual net expenditure. The unrestricted funds of the charity at 31 March 2005 are £214,648.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by Michael Davis, Convener and Alan S Macdonald, Honorary Treasurer.
7 September 2005

SCoD Activities



Counselling Training Project

SCoD secured funding from the Big Lottery Fund as well as from the Scottish Executive for the Counselling Training Project. The project started in April 2004 with the appointment of the first part-time Project Co-ordinator, Trudi Collier. Trudi is one of only two Deaf trained and qualified counsellors in Scotland. Her main role is to organise certificate courses in counselling skills for deaf and deafblind people.



In October 2004, Lorna Weatherstone was appointed as the other part-time Project Co-ordinator and her main role is to organise awareness training

Lorna and Trudi

courses for mainstream counsellors.

Following a very successful pre-course "taster" weekend in June 2004, the first Certificate Course in Counselling Skills started in October 2004 at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow with thirteen deaf and hard of hearing students. To ensure that these students have full access, sign language interpreting and electronic notetaking services have been provided throughout their course, which is the first of its kind in the UK.

A series of awareness training courses for mainstream counsellors was organised and delivered by experienced trainers from Deaf Action and Deaf Connections.

A leaflet "Is your Counselling Service Accessible?" was produced and distributed to counsellors.



Universities and Colleges were surveyed to find out how accessible their counselling courses would be for deaf and deafblind students who may wish to undertake further counselling study after completion of their certificate course in counselling skills.

An information pack with tips on how to improve accessibility is now being developed.

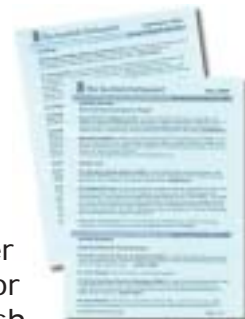
Awareness Training Pack for Healthcare Workers Launched

A working partnership between SCoD, NHS Education for Scotland and the Council for Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP) came to fruition with the launch of a new Communication Tactics training pack for healthcare workers. The launch, at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh took place in January 2005. Plans are underway to deliver courses for trainers on how to use this pack in the latter half of 2005 before they can start delivering this awareness training to healthcare workers throughout Scotland.



Deaf and Deafblind Awareness Trainers

SCoD member organisations expressed concern about the lack of good quality awareness trainers. As a result of this, SCoD set up a steering group consisting of representatives from CACDP, Deaf Connections, RNID Scotland, Deafblind Scotland and NHS Greater Glasgow to draft a code of conduct and a list of membership criteria for SCoD Approved Trainers. Drafting work is now complete and papers are with SCoD member organisations for feedback. When a list of Approved SCoD Trainers is established, SCoD will promote them as widely as possible. To help increase the number of awareness trainers, SCoD is also looking at training options.



SCoD's Information Service continues to flourish with an ever increasing number of requests for the popular SCoDBulletin, Scottish Parliamentary Reports and SCoDnews as well as for the usual information and advice on a wide range of topics such as equipment for deaf people, counselling courses and BSL classes, etc. The number of hits for the SCoD website continues to rise – almost 15,000 in the last year!



Mental Health and Deaf & Deafblind People

SCoD continued lobbying for specialist mental health services and improved access to mainstream mental health services in Scotland. When it became known that the outreach services from the John Denmark Unit in Salford might cease in the near future, the provision of mental health service for deaf and deafblind people in Scotland suddenly became more precarious. So in January 2005, SCoD, with support from its member organisations lodged a petition at the Scottish Parliament asking them “to commit the Scottish Executive to develop and establish a specialist in-patient mental health unit for deaf and deafblind people and to provide resources (e.g. training) for mainstream psychiatric services in the community to

make them more accessible to deaf and deafblind people in Scotland.” SCoD’s Mental Health and Deaf People Task Group sent a delegation to speak to the Public Petitions Committee on 23rd February 2005. The Public Petitions Committee agreed to ask the Scottish Executive and the John Denmark Unit for their views.

Meanwhile, SCoD continued its dialogue with the Scottish Executive Health Department and the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing. To help collate evidence of gaps in mental health provision for deaf and deafblind people and information from service providers and users, the Scottish Executive Health Department

decided to invest some money in a research project entitled “Community Care and Mental Health Services for Adults with Sensory Impairment in Scotland”. This project would take the first half of 2005 and a research report would be expected in October 2005. SCoD is represented in a research advisory group advising researchers and monitoring the progress of this important research. SCoD hopes that results of this research will finally convince the Scottish Executive that investment should be made to develop a specialist mental health unit for deaf and deafblind people in Scotland.



SCoD DVD

SCoD’s signed DVD version of leaflets and position statements was launched in May 2004 and copies are now being distributed to libraries throughout Scotland. This DVD has proved popular not only with member

organisations, but also with sign language students who wish to practice their receptive skills privately (!!)

with some native BSL Users. This DVD is still available for purchase from SCoD. Download a form from our website - you’ll find details in our Information section.

SCoD Website

In 2004/5...

Our web calendar alerted you to **531** events and activities including subtitled films showing in cinemas around Scotland

Our vacancies section informed you about **53** job opportunities

We also kept you up to speed with activities in the Scottish Parliament with **42** individual reports detailing questions and answer sessions taking place during both Parliamentary sessions.

In the next financial year, SCoD hopes to overhaul the website, reducing the site to one fully accessible area rather than the two separate sections (text and graphics) that exist at the moment. It will make updating the site and managing the information a great deal simpler.





Cross Party Group on Deafness

SCoD continued its secretariat support to the Cross Party Group on Deafness, which met every two months during the parliamentary sessions. Many different topics were discussed, but the three key areas of concern were:

- Section 7 Guidance for deafblind people
- Social Work Services
- Mental Health Services

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Deafness are available on the SCoD and Scottish Parliament websites.

DDA Forum

In partnership with Deaf Action and Capability Scotland, a very successful Forum took place in Edinburgh on 1st June 2004. Elspeth Ritchie from Capability Scotland gave an informative presentation on the legislation and ably fielded the many questions from the packed floor.



Information SERVICE

The SCoDBulletin

The popular *Bulletin* is issued monthly to all SCoD members. The publication is filled with news, both general and related to SCoD, information about courses and conferences, job vacancies, sign interpreted theatre, subtitled cinema and other social and cultural events. For a small fee you can add your name to the mailing list. Contact the SCoD Information Officer for further information. Contact details are on the back page.



Events and Meetings

Two more Question Time events took place in Fort William in August 2004 and Greenock in January 2005. Although not a huge turnout, the Fort William event fuelled lively discussion, giving all in attendance ample opportunity to ask questions of the panel consisting of MSP Jim Mather, Margaret Laird from Social Work and Local Councillors Brian Murphy and Neil Clark. The Greenock event saw a larger turnout - and SCoD was especially delighted to see a group of youngsters taking part, some of whom asked very direct and cutting questions of the panel!

SCoD Membership

SCoD was pleased to welcome LINK, Sign Charity and North Ayrshire Sensory Impairment Services as new members.



SCoDnews

SCoDnews is published three times a year and distributed free to around 6,000 deaf people, organisations, local authorities and hospitals.

We dispatch the newsletter to Scottish libraries for them to add to stock. This is a very popular publication, packed with interesting articles and information. You can add your name to the ever-expanding SCoD newsletter mailing list by contacting the Information Officer. Contact details are on the back page.





Scottish Information Commissioner



SCoD National Council

At their National Council, SCoD member organisation representatives enjoyed presentations from invited guest speakers including

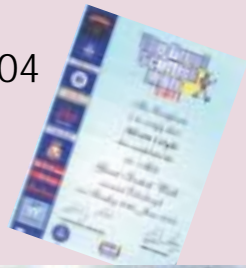
- Donald Lyons from the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- Lorraine Gailey from LINK
- Lucy Scharbert from the Scottish Information Commission

SCoD Open Day

On its first anniversary since moving to Glasgow, SCoD held an Open Day in May 2004. Deaf and hard of hearing people, service providers and representatives from local authorities and the Scottish Executive came to meet the staff and learn more about SCoD's work. As it was so successful, it was agreed to have another Open Day the following year.

The Great Scottish Walk 2004

SCoD Director, Lilian Lawson and her two daughters, Nicola and Tamara supported Alison Coyle, Administrative Assistant in raising sponsored funds for SCoD by taking part in the 12 mile walk which took them through many historic and attractive parts of Edinburgh and Leith.



Representations

SCoD continued to be represented on many committees and working groups such as

- **The Scottish Executive Health Department's Sensory Impairment Action Plan Steering Group**
- **Scottish Executive Equality Unit's BSL & Linguistic Access Working Group and Disability Working Group**
- **Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters' Scottish Training Strategy Working Group**
- **Scottish Executive's Audiology Services Advisory Group**
- **Donaldson's College Board of Governors**
- **Scottish Executive's 21st Century Social Work Review Stakeholders Group and Carer Panel**
- **Scottish Accessible Information Forum**
- **Deaf Professionals Scotland**

This representation is important because issues of concern affecting deaf and deafblind people are constantly raised and discussed at these meetings.



- Enable deaf* people to contribute to shaping the policies which affect their lives
- Work to challenge negative attitudes and combat discriminatory practice
- Raise public awareness of issues affecting deaf people, their views and experience
- Campaign for equal opportunities for deaf people
- Improve the social inclusion of deaf people
- Support the recognition of British Sign Language
- Support the development of relevant services
- Promote the rights of deaf people and encourage improved practice

*The term "deaf" comprises all those, adults and children, with the full range of hearing loss and includes those who are Deaf, Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind.



How **you** can help SCoD continue its work

- Make a Donation
- Leave a Legacy in your Will
- Ask your employer about Payroll Giving
- Gift Aid your Donation
- Take part in Sponsored Events
- Ask about Volunteering

Keep in touch with the Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) and Deaf Issues



Visit the offices



click the site: www.scod.org.uk



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