

# Convener's Statement

Michael J Davis



Another year has passed - time has really flown since the last report. The SCoD staff have settled into their Glasgow offices with only a small pause in their work.

We now have a new member of staff - Trudi Collier who is our part-time Co-ordinator for the Deaf Counselling Project.

The Management Committee has continued to work hard on a range of issues to help improve the lives of Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing and Deafened people. By the time this report is published, members will have attended another Away Day. This time, several important issues will have been discussed including the review of our status as a charitable organisation and also of our financial position and how to improve it.

Following the approval of SCoD's Strategy document at last year's AGM, the members of SCoD's four sub-committees (Education, Health, Information and Social Inclusion) have started their work on the implementation of the Strategy in addition to their other work.

Then there is the backbone of SCoD - the 93 members of the National Council - who support our work.

We should, therefore, thank all staff and members of the Council and Committees for their hard work and continued support. It is to be hoped that the next twelve months will bring further consolidation and also a stronger financial foundation for our future work.



# Director's Statement

This report shows that as ever, SCoD has worked with its 93 member organisations to raise awareness of issues affecting Deaf Sign Language users, Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind people so that they can enjoy a better quality of life in Scotland.

Access issues will continue to dominate SCoD's work. SCoD has secured funding from the Scottish Executive and Community Fund for a Counselling Training Project the overall aim of which is to give deaf and deafblind people access to counselling services. This project will start in April 2004.

To ensure that deaf and deafblind people have improved access to health services, SCoD and NHS Education for Scotland will complete their project developing a deaf and deafblind awareness training pack for healthcare workers in Scotland.

As part of our drive to improve deaf and deafblind people's access, SCoD is working with some member organisations to seek ways of ensuring that the quality

of deaf & deafblind awareness training is of a high standard. Also we are looking at training opportunities for deaf and deafblind people so that the number of deaf & deafblind awareness trainers will be increased to meet the ever growing demand for this training.

SCoD's sub-committees and other ad hoc groups including the Mental Health and Deaf People Task Group will continue to support SCoD's work in improving Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind people's access to all services, information and mobility so that their social isolation will be eliminated.



Lilian Lawson



# Treasurer's Report

Alan Macdonald



## Auditor's 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 SORP.

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 2004.

**Chiene & Tait CA** | Registered Auditors | 8 September 2004

## Financial Summary

The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were approved on 8th September 2004 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 free reserves of the charity at 31 March 2004 are £260974.

*Alan P. Macdonald*

## Statement of Financial Activities - Year Ended 31 March 2004

	Restricted Fund	Designated Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Total 2004	Total 2003
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	-	21636	113458	143094	219081
Resources expended	(2840)	(21636)	(149293)	(181769)	(161775)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources in year	(2840)	-	(35835)	(38675)	57306
Other recognised gains and (losses)	-	-	21308	21308	(67928)
Balance at 1 April 2003	(2840)	-	(14527)	(17367)	(10622)
Balance at 31 March 2004	15251	-	275501	290752	301374
	12411	-	260974	273385	290752

## Balance Sheet

	2004		2003	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets		182788		167321
Current assets	100378		132352	
Current liabilities	9781		8921	
Net current assets		90597		123431
Net assets		<u>273385</u>		<u>290752</u>
General fund		260974		275501
Restricted funds		12411		15251
		<u>273385</u>		<u>290752</u>





# Campaigns

SCoD has been actively lobbying to provide a national perspective on deaf and deafblind issues and to influence policy makers to achieve equality and rights for deaf people. Here are some examples:

## Television



As a result of pressure from SCoD, Scottish Television now employs a Deaf Sign Language user to interpret the weekly news programme "Scotland This Week" and also BBC Scotland now provides subtitled Morning news bulletins.

## Transport



SCoD continued its dialogue with MACS (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland), raising transport issues affecting deaf and deafblind travellers.

SCoD arranged a meeting for deaf and Deafblind people to give their views on how train companies' (including Scotrail, Virgin Trains and GNER) services could be improved.



## Advocacy

SCoD was represented at Advocacy Safeguards Agency's conference where SCoD and British Deaf Association Scotland gave a joint presentation on how Deaf people could access Advocacy Services.

## Linguistic Access

SCoD continued to be represented in meetings of Scottish Executive Equality Unit's BSL and Linguistic Access Working Group.

At SCoD's request, a number of parliamentary questions regarding a fair share of the Department for Work and Pensions' £1 million for projects in Scotland, which would improve deaf and deafblind people's linguistic access were tabled in the Scottish and UK Parliaments.

## Mental Health

SCoD's Mental Health and Deaf People (MHDP) Task Group was re-convened in November 2003 when SCoD was informed that there would be no funding available for a research project. The MHDP Task Group agreed to lobby the Scottish Executive (SE) and NHS Scotland once again about lack of service provision for deaf people with mental health problems. A series of meetings have taken place with the SE Health Department.

## Cross Party Group on Deafness

The Cross Party Group on Deafness, whose secretariat support is provided by SCoD, met every two months during the parliament session. The topics raised and discussed included: education, audiology services, deafblind people and social work services.

# Meetings & Seminars



## Question Time

More successful "Question Time"

events took place in Wick and Falkirk where local deaf and hard of hearing people had the opportunity to put questions to their local MSPs, MPs and councillors. Once again, as a result of this awareness raising exercise, a number of parliamentary questions were tabled in the Scottish Parliament.

## Independent Advocacy

A successful "What do we want from Independent Advocacy?" conference was organised by SCoD in partnership with the Advocacy Safeguards Agency, National Deaf Children's Society, British Deaf Association Scotland and Deaf Children's Society for East Scotland. It was agreed that there should be awareness raising about advocacy in the deaf community and about deaf/blindness amongst advocacy service providers.



## Benefits Forum

SCoD and RNID Scotland worked together to organise a one day forum on **Benefits**. Over seventy deaf and hard of hearing people came to this forum to watch presentations from JobcentrePlus, the Pensions Service, Inland Revenue and Veterans Agency. Surgeries were arranged for individuals to raise their cases during a lunch break.



## Creating Linguistic Access

SCoD, Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI), Deaf Action and University of Edinburgh's Scottish Sensory Centre jointly organised a half-day meeting for Deaf Sign Language users who were encouraged to lobby their MSPs to support the establishment of a Scottish Centre for Deaf Studies.

## Access to Education Training

Thanks to financial support from the Scottish Executive Education Department and the General Teaching Council for Scotland, an excellent one day "Deaf People's Access to Education Training" seminar was organised by SCoD and the National Deaf Children's Society (Scotland). Fifteen deaf young people came and learned from two deaf teachers how they had undertaken their training to become teachers. Participants also received information about different posts in education such as "learning support assistants".



## National Council

At their **National Council** meetings, SCoD member organisations' representatives enjoyed presentations from invited guest speakers, including Duncan McAulay from the Association of Directors of Social Work, John Magill from Strategy in Scotland, Marion Grimes of the "Achievements of Deaf Pupils in Scotland" Project and Matthew McIver from the General Teaching Council for Scotland.



## Human Rights Act Training



A highly informative half-day training event focusing on the **Human Rights Act** was organised for SCoD member organisations by the Scottish Human Rights Trust.

As in previous years, SCoD has worked in partnership with different organisations in the voluntary and statutory sectors. Some of these partnerships have already been described elsewhere in this report. Here are some further examples:

## Counselling Services

SCoD, Deaf Connections, COSCA, Deafblind Scotland and NHS Greater Glasgow met several times to develop a Counselling Training Project and raise money for this project. In December 2003, they were delighted to learn that SCoD's application for the Scottish Executive Section 9 Training Grant had been successful. This will allow the project to commence in April 2004 and run for three years.



## Deaf & Deafblind Training Pack for Healthcare Professionals

SCoD and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) have continued to work to develop a training pack for healthcare professionals in Scotland with support from Council for Advancement of Communication with Deaf People and other deaf & deafblind organisations. This pack will be piloted with groups of nurses in summer 2004.



SCoD continued to respond to a number of consultation documents, draft plans and draft standards from the Scottish Executive and other statutory organisations. SCoD is a member of a Sensory Impairment Action Plan Steering Group working with the Scottish Executive to improve community care services for deaf, deafblind and blind people in Scotland. SCoD organised a consultation meeting for member organisations to comment on the Sensory Impairment Action Plan.



SCoD's membership continued to increase and SCoD is delighted to have Fife Healthy Living & Sensory Awareness Project, Sound Sense Project, Ayr Deaf Club, British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists and NHS Quality Improvement Scotland joining SCoD during the year 2003 - 2004. SCoD will continue to seek new members in 2004 - 2005.



SCoD moved from its offices in Edinburgh to Glasgow City Centre on 13th May 2003. Many people have welcomed this move, finding our new, central location, easier to visit because of its close proximity to rail and bus stations. Plans are underway to celebrate the first anniversary of this move by holding an Open Day.



# Scottish Council on Deafness

..... the Lead Organisation  
for Deaf Issues in Scotland

## SCoD aims to:

- 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.

## Acknowledgements

SCoD is deeply grateful to the Scottish Executive for their continuing financial support, also to member organisations for their fees and support, local authorities for their grants and Trusts & Foundations for their donations received during the year. SCoD would also like to thank the many individuals without whose donations we could not continue our work to help improve the quality of life of all deaf people in Scotland.

## How can you help SCoD continue its work?

- **Make a Donation**
- **Leave a Legacy in your Will**
- **Ask your employer about Payroll Giving**

### For more information, contact:



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