



Scottish Council on Deafness

Advice for GPs on Counselling for Deaf* and Deafblind Patients

Advice prepared by the
Counselling Awareness Project



* The term 'deaf' is used in this leaflet to refer to Deaf Sign Language users, hard of hearing and deafened people. GPs must be aware that the communication needs of these groups will differ.



During Diagnosis and Referral

- **Ask the deaf person what communication support they would prefer *before* their appointment.**
- **Always employ a professional sign language interpreter or guide communicator if requested by a deaf or deafblind patient; do not rely on relatives or friends of the patient.**
- **Undertake recognised Deaf Awareness and Deafblind Awareness Training yourself and encourage other front-line staff to undertake training.**
- **Ensure that the patient's deafness and communication needs are known to any counsellor to whom you refer a deaf or deafblind patient.**
- **Ask deaf patients if they would prefer to see a hearing or deaf counsellor and ensure that hearing counsellors have undertaken Deaf Awareness training and have experience of working with deaf clients.**
- **When referring a deaf or deafblind patient for counselling, give them a copy of the leaflet "What is Counselling?" (download from www.scod.org.uk).**

**Deaf & Hearing Qualified Counsellors
who are able to communicate with
Deaf people using British Sign Language (BSL)
and have deaf awareness training**

**Counsellors work on a freelance basis and are happy to
receive referrals from GPs where funding is available**

Note: "Deaf" in this context refers to Deaf Sign Language users

Caroline Bickerton *MBACP (Accred)*

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Website www.f2f.eu.com
Approach Person-Centred
Client groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing
adults (individuals), young people
Areas Manchester, Cumbria, Borders, Glasgow

Teresa Brasier *MBACP (Accred)*

Mobile 07810 860569
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Website www.glasgowcounselling.com
Approaches Transactional Analysis, Brief Therapy
Client groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing
adults (individuals)
Area Central Scotland

Trudi Collier *MBACP (Accred)*

Mobile (text) 07739 963423
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Website www.trudicollier.com
Approaches Integrative, Humanistic, CBT, REBT, Brief
Therapy, Life coaching
Client group Deaf adults (individuals and couples), young
people, children, supervision
Areas Grampian, Tayside, Fife, and Central Belt.

Trudi is Deaf.

Deaf & Hearing Qualified Counsellors Cont.

Michael Davis *MBACP*

Textphone 01721 721909
Fax 01721 729093
Mobile (text) 07975 723951
Email michael.davis.pct@btinternet.com
Approach Person-Centred
Client groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing
adults (individuals and couples)
Areas Central and South Scotland

Michael is Deaf and is available to see clients by arrangement during the daytime from Monday to Friday; in exceptional circumstances he may be available during evenings and weekends.

Liz Kerr *MBACP*

Tel 01506 202761
Mobile 07708 552285
E-mail liz_kerr@blueyonder.co.uk
Approaches Integrative Model; offering both long-term and brief
solution focused therapy
Client groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing
adults (individuals), young people
Areas Edinburgh and Lothian

Sheila McKenzie *MBACP (Accred) UKRCP (Reg.)*

Tel 0141 882 4461
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Approach Person-Centred
Client groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing
adults, young people, children
Area West of Scotland

Alan J McNeill *MBACP (Accred)*

Mobile 07796 396198
Email alanjmcneill@btopenworld.com
Approaches Person-Centred, CBT
Client groups Deafblind, Deaf (with interpreter),
deafened, hard of hearing
adults (individual and couples)
Area Glasgow

Alan does not counsel in BSL but is experienced in working with interpreters. He is currently counselling for Deafblind Scotland using deafblind manual where appropriate.

Shelagh Douglas *MBACP*

Mobile (text) 07966 685094
Email shelaghd12@googlemail.com
Approach Person-Centred
Client groups Deaf, deafened adults and
young people
Areas Scotland and North of England

Shelagh is a Deaf British Sign Language user and offers one-to-one counselling.

Louise Barry *MBACP*

Tel 01506 201516
Mobile 07878 625086
Email louisebarrycbt@yahoo.co.uk
Approach CBT, Relaxation Techniques
Client Groups Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and
deafblind.
Adults (individuals) and young people
Area Central Scotland

Louise is a non-practising, registered, qualified Sign Language Interpreter so can work proficiently with BSL users as well as with clients who are deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing.

Relevant Publications

Making the Case—Specialist Mental Health Services for Deaf People in Scotland

Scottish Council on Deafness publication.

www.scod.org.uk/pdf/scodpublications/SCoD_Making_the_Case.pdf

Mental Health and Deafness: Best Practice

Scottish Council on Deafness Position Statement.

www.scod.org.uk/pdf/scodpublications/PositionStatement_MH.pdf

Mental Health and Deafness: Towards Equity and Access

NHS, Department of Health and National Institute for Mental Health in England, February 2005.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4103995

A Sign of the Times: Modernising Mental Health Services for People who are Deaf

Department of Health, July 2002.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_4016951

Disability Discrimination Compliance:

Access to Mainstream and Specialist Services for those with Sensory Loss and a Mental Health Problem

Scottish Executive, June 2005.

www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/HDL2005_27.pdf

Other information leaflets and links
to relevant agencies are available
on the SCoD website

www.scod.org.uk

Endorsed by organisational members of the Counselling Awareness Project



Scottish Council on Deafness
www.scod.org.uk

Hearing Concern Link Scotland

www.hearingconcernlink.org

Provides support and information to people
with hearing loss and their families


Hearing Concern LINK



Lothian Deaf Counselling Service

www.lothiandcs.org.uk

Provides free counselling to Deaf, deafened, hard of
hearing and deafblind adults living in Lothian

Deaf Connections

www.deafconnections.co.uk

Provides a range of specialist services to deaf and hard of
hearing people in the West of Scotland



Hayfield Support Services for Deaf People

www.hayfield.org.uk

Residential and day care facilities for deaf people with
additional difficulties

Counselling and Psychotherapy in Scotland

www.cosca.org.uk

Professional body for counselling and psychotherapy in
Scotland



For more information contact

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Website www.scod.org.uk**

**Copies of this guide and “What is Counselling?” leaflet
are available in pdf format for download at
www.scod.org.uk**

Cover picture from www.cyh.com



The Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) is the lead organisation for deaf issues in Scotland. SCoD represents 90 organisations working with and on behalf of Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, Deafblind and hard of hearing people. SCoD's membership provides an effective working partnership between the Voluntary Sector, Social Work and Education Departments, NHS Trusts, Health Boards and the Government.