



The lead organisation for deaf issues in Scotland

Donald Richards *Convenor*

During this, my second year as Convenor of SCoD, it has been my pleasure to chair the three National Council meetings in June 2012, October 2012 and March 2013 as well as the AGM in October 2012. We have been trying out new formats for these meetings and the two debates – “Cochlear Implants” and “Should there be a Deaf Register?” - were most successful. Our Information Day in March was popular with members and non-members alike, giving participants the opportunity to learn about deaf organisations and also to find out what other bodies such as NHS 24 and the Citizens' Advice Bureau are doing to improve access for deaf people to their services.

I was delighted to hear that SCoD had won the Signature Annual Award for Organisational Achievement in November. This award “recognises an organisation...which through leadership or endeavour has made a significant contribution to achieving a society in which deaf and Deafblind people have full access.” It is a tremendous tribute to the Director, Lilian Lawson and her Staff.

Last year, I mentioned that Pilotlight was assisting us to review our work and I can now report that the review is complete and we have a strong Strategic Plan for the future together with our new Vision of “A society where deaf people have equal access, equal rights and citizenship.” Lilian is stepping down as Director in December this year, so the new plans will be carried out by her successor.

During the past 13 years Lilian has led SCoD in too many achievements to mention here but I would like to highlight just three:

- ✓ Lilian headed the Mental Health and Deaf People Task Group's campaign which led to the establishment of the first (and only) mental health facility for deaf people in Scotland.
- ✓ When the new Scottish Parliament was established Lilian, as Director of SCoD, was instrumental in setting up the Cross Party Group on Deafness.
- ✓ The BSL Bill has now entered its second stage. This is in a large part due to the momentum maintained by Lilian in keeping it a priority. If the Bill becomes the BSL Act, it will be the most significant piece of legislation for deaf people in Scotland.

SCoD's reputation with the Scottish Government, Statutory Bodies and our members has grown due to her hard work. I would like to pay a personal tribute to Lilian. She is an inspirational person for us all and we wish her a long and happy retirement. We are most grateful to our funders, the Scottish Government, the Big Lottery

Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Trusts and of course individual donors without whose support we would not be able to continue our work. Thank you. Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to the Management Committee; SCoD sub-committee members and of course to the dedicated team at SCoD for their contribution to deaf people in Scotland.

Lilian Lawson OBE Director

As I am stepping down from my post of Director in December 2013, this is my last report.

During my 13 years with SCoD I have seen SCoD's profile rise especially in the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament and also how our reputation as the lead deaf organisation for deaf issues in Scotland has grown. I was thrilled to hear last autumn that SCoD had won the Signature Annual Award for Organisational Achievement. This national award "recognises an organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector which, through leadership or endeavour, has made a significant contribution to achieving a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access." I told my hard working staff of four that the award was dedicated to them – as a deserved recognition of their part in making SCoD a highly respected and effective organisation.

Last year we reported that Pilotlight had agreed to guide SCoD through a review; looking at our vision and planning for the future. We asked our members and other stakeholders for their feedback on what they would

like us to prioritise. We were greatly encouraged by their endorsement of our work as this quote shows: "Doing an amazing job. Without the dedication staff exhibit, money alone is not the answer – AWARENESS is key to recruiting support"

We were informed by members' and stakeholders' views in preparing our Strategic Plan for the next 5 years and we are grateful to Pilotlight for their assistance and support in its preparation. (More about our Strategic Review on page 14)

We were delighted to receive support from the Big Lottery Fund for our Employment Research Project to identify issues that face unemployed deaf people as well as the problems deaf people face in work.

We were also delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to support our project about deaf people's school memories. We see this as a recognition of our work on our "Presenting the Past: My Firsts" Project which they funded previously. The three excellent DVDs: **Deaf**

People at Work, Deaf People at War and Deaf People on the Road we produced continue to attract interest from all over the world.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported SCoD financially: the Scottish Government; Big Lottery Fund; Awards for All; Heritage Lottery Fund; various Trusts (see page 17) and of course individual donors. This support is essential for us to be able to continue as an effective umbrella body.

It has been a very rewarding time of my career working with SCoD. I have enjoyed working with the dedicated staff, the Management Committee and sub-committee members and many others too numerous to mention here. I have every confidence in leaving the organisation in very capable hands and am sure that SCoD will continue to lead as the Voice of Deaf People in Scotland.



Honorary Treasurer

Alan Macdonald

The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were approved on 5th September 2013 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 auditor's 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 31st March 2013 are £180,033.

Year Ended 31st March 2013

	Restricted Fund £	Un-Restricted Fund £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Incoming resources	81,458	134,221	215,679	201,199
Resources expended	42,769	194,673	237,442	231,001
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Net (outgoing) / incoming resources in year	38,689	(60,452)	(21,763)	(29,802)
Gross transfers between funds	(7,965)	7,965	-	-
Other recognised (losses)/gains	-	16,853	16,853	(611)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Balance at 1st April 2012	30,724	(35,634)	(4,910)	(30,413)
	131	215,667	215,798	246,211
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Balance at 31st March 2013	30,855	180,033	210,888	215,798
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Balance Sheet

	2013 £	2012 £
Fixed assets	125,750	108,897
Current assets	100,169	123,639
Current liabilities	15,031	16,738
	-----	-----
Net current assets	85,138	106,901
	-----	-----
Net assets	210,888	215,798
	=====	=====
General fund	180,033	215,667
Restricted funds	30,855	131
	-----	-----
	210,888	215,798
	=====	=====

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by Donald Richards, Convenor and Alan Macdonald, Honorary Treasurer.

Independent Auditor's Statement

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2013.

Respective Responsibilities of Management Committee and Auditor

The Management Committee is responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities Statement of Recommended Practice. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual 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.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 *The auditor's 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 annual financial statements and the Management Committee's Report of The Scottish Council on Deafness for the year ended 31st March 2013



Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor,
61 Dublin Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6NL

Signature Award for Organisational Achievement



Imagine the pride (and of course the surprise) we all felt when we learned that we had been nominated and then shortlisted for the Signature Organisational Achievement of the Year award.

What an honour it was to actually win the award!

Lilian Lawson collected the gong (see above) on behalf of SCoD at the November ceremony in London.



The Award Winning Team!

L to R: Alison Coyle, Mandy Reid, Linda Ogston, Lilian Lawson OBE, Nicola Noon



BSL Bill

Mark Griffin MSP launched, for consultation,

his proposed BSL Bill (Scotland) in the Scottish Parliament in July 2012. The consultation ran for three months and prompted an overwhelming number of responses from deaf and hearing individuals, deaf organisations, other voluntary and statutory organisations.

This represented the largest response to a proposed member's bill in the history of the parliament!

The responses were handed over to the Parliament's Non-Executive Bills Unit* for analysis. Interim results demonstrated overwhelming support for BSL to be legislated. It is expected that Mark Griffin MSP will lodge a motion in the Scottish Parliament in spring 2013.

*Please note, the Non-Executive Bills Unit has since been renamed the Non-Government Bills Unit

BSL & Linguistic Access

We administered and chaired the BSL & Linguistic Access Working Group (BSLLAWG) meetings which took place every three months.

The Scottish Government Equality Unit maintained its interest in this group by regularly attending meetings and commenting on our work.

The group held an Away Day to review its work and this resulted in an application for consortium funding from the Scottish Government Equality Unit. If successful, the funding will be used to employ two full-time project officers who will work with the statutory bodies to improve linguistic access.

The BSLLAWG invited a number of organisations and services to talk about their work: NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and their language provision contracts; Scottish Court Services & the Justice Disability Steering Group and their Working Group on Interpreting and Translation; the Equality & Human Rights Commission & the Equality Act and Deaf Education and the National Archives of Scotland & the future censuses.

Health Access

We continued to work closely with health authorities including the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, NHS 24, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS National Services Division and NHS National Services Scotland to improve deaf people's access to their services, to lobby for more deaf and deafblind awareness raising in the health sector and to improve the recording of language and communication needs of deaf patients.





SCoD attended meetings of the Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group at the offices of Action on Hearing Loss (AoHL). The Strategy Group is supported by the Scottish Government and is made up of representatives from SCoD, AoHL, Hearing Link, Atla (Association of Tutors of Lipreading to Adults), NHS Audiology Services and the Scottish Government.

Government funding has enabled a new training course of tutors of lipreading to be offered. Delivered by the Scottish Course to Train Tutors of Lipreading (SCTTL), the first cohort is expected to complete their training in June 2013. A second cohort will begin their studies in September 2013. This will hopefully help address the shortage of qualified lipreading tutors in Scotland.

The Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group has also discussed the possibility of getting this training course accredited by SQA, setting up a Register of Lipreading Tutors and referral pathways.

Cross Party Group on Deafness

We continue to administer the Cross Party Group on Deafness (CPGD) at the Scottish Parliament. Jenny Marra MSP (Convenor) and Dennis Robertson MSP (Deputy Convenor) gave full support to the CPGD, whose purpose it to raise awareness amongst Members of issues affecting the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Scotland. The group met every three months, discussing, amongst other things: Lipreading tutors, the Commonwealth Games, Welfare Reform, the Principles of Inclusive Communication, the Scottish Cochlear Implantation Programme, the Sensory Impairment Strategy and the BSL Bill.

In Memoriam

We were all saddened and shocked to lose Grace Bannan to cancer in June 2012. Grace's day job was a British Sign Language Interpreter, but she was much more than that to SCoD. She was a regular feature at our monthly team meetings and always added an extra sparkle to the proceedings. Her impact on SCoD staff will never be forgotten.



National Council: Meetings for all SCoD Members

Our National Council continued to meet on a regular basis with a series of interesting speakers.

Edinburgh in June 2012 – we held a discussion on cochlear implants. Miss Mary Shanks, Surgical Director of the Scottish Cochlear Implantation Programme gave an interesting talk about her work which elicited a lively debate from SCoD members.



Falkirk in October 2012 – another debate, this time entitled “Should there be a Deaf Register?” Graham Findlay of North East Sensory Services and Hazel McFarlane of the Centre for Sensory Impaired People gave a joint presentation about the register for blind and partially sighted people. Jan Savage of NDCS spoke about NDCS

Scotland’s campaign for a record of deaf children. There was an overwhelming support for a register, chiefly in the hope that it would provide a means of gathering reliable statistics on the numbers of deaf people in Scotland, the level of their deafness and their preferred method of communication. At this same meeting Dr Audrey Cameron gave an update on the employment research project and Lilian Lawson, SCoD Director spoke about planning for SCoD’s future.

Linlithgow - March 2013

- we decided to have an information day at Donaldson’s School in Linlithgow. Members were invited to take part in a mini exhibition and ten organisations set up their information stands. Then we had four presentations: Deaf Connections, Roxburgh & Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau’s “We Hear You” Project, Police Scotland about the non-emergency number 101 and the PSLT (Portable Sign Language Translator).

AGM

The Annual General Meeting took place in Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon, near Falkirk in October 2012. First SCoD Members and guests enjoyed a civic welcome from Provost Pat Reid of Falkirk Council before being treated to a buffet lunch. Mabel Davis CBE was the guest speaker. She retired from her position as Head Teacher of Heathlands School for deaf children in St Albans and gave a rousing talk about her work with deaf children and how she had succeeded to become Head Teacher.



Getting to the top,
Mabel Davis style

BACK TO SCHOOL Lessons to Learn

We successfully applied for additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce a set of three DVDs containing footage of the school memories of older deaf people. Schooled in the '30s, 40's, 50's and 60's, their experiences differ vastly from that of today's deaf children who mostly attend mainstream schools.

The DVDs will be of interest to members of the Deaf community, Scottish local history centres, teachers of history and teachers of deaf children, young deaf people, and students of BSL - in fact, basically anyone with an interest in Deaf history. DVDs will be presented in BSL with captions.

Once completed, the DVD set will be used to lead intergenerational workshops across Scotland aimed at deaf school aged children. Workshops will be run in partnership with Deaf History Scotland and will take place in 2014.

A booklet containing further background information will accompany the DVD set which will be launched in late 2013.

This project is made possible thanks to generous support from: Heritage Lottery Fund, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Martin Connell Charitable Trust and JTH Charitable Trust

EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH PROJECT

A grant from the Big Lottery enabled us to carry out a comprehensive employment research study to find out more about what is happening to deaf, deafblind, deafened and hard of hearing people in Scotland, over the age of 25, who may be seeking employment, or may be experiencing difficulties in their current employment. We wanted to identify the areas of greatest need in order to help to address those needs. We recruited Dr Audrey Cameron, a Deaf research consultant, to carry out this study who produced online surveys aimed at deaf people and employers, and then held follow-up arranged group meetings in Aberdeen, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Dumfries and Galashiels. The research project ended in March 2013 and Dr Cameron will present her findings at our National Council meeting in June 2013.



THEN AND NOW

In doing the research for the History of SCoD which we hope to publish soon, it has been interesting to see common threads running through our work over the past eighty-plus years.

Among those who attended the initial conference in 1927 at which the formation of SCoD (under our original name of the Scottish Association for the Deaf, or SAD) was first mooted were representatives from the Missions for the Deaf in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Over the years as the work of the Missioner evolved into that of Welfare Worker with the Deaf and then that of Social Worker with Deaf People, these two Missions developed and altered to become Deaf Action and Deaf Connections. Donaldson's School, Aberdeen School for the Deaf and Ayrshire Education Authority also sent representatives to the 1927 conference. Together with Deaf Action and Deaf Connections they are still members today.

We have seen great changes since those early days. There is now an Undergraduate BSL/English interpreting course at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh; a residential mental health facility for Deaf people in Scotland and Hearing Link has a Scottish Branch which means deafened people and their families no longer have to travel from Scotland to Eastbourne for rehabilitation courses.

One of the earliest achievements was getting the agreement of the Crown Office that only interpreters recommended by the SAD would be used in Courts of Law. The SAD regularly updated the list between the 1930s and 1970s. During this period the interpreters were Missioners or Welfare Workers from Deaf Societies who were paid by the Courts for their services.

It is sad to note however that in 2013, some service providers are not engaging the appropriate communication support for deaf

SCoD's History

people including in some cases for legal business.

Adequate provision of lipreading classes has been a constant battle with highs and lows.

In the 1980s, after four years of campaigning a group of Committee members succeeded in establishing a course to train tutors of lipreading. Funding for such courses has been sporadic however and in 2011 the Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group managed to get funding for a similar course.

Back in the 1930s the SAD set up employment schemes including a shoe repair shop, market gardening and car cleaning which employed only deaf workers. When Britain was at its

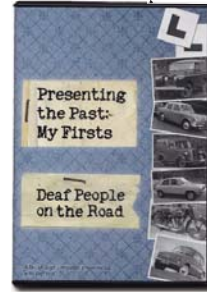




manufacturing height, many deaf workers were employed together as skilled factory workers. These days have gone and we have recently received funding to carry out an employment survey into the conditions of deaf workers today. Another great change has been in education. Up until the 1960s most deaf children were sent to residential schools – often at the tender age of just three. Now the majority of deaf children attend their local school (with varying degrees of support from visiting Teachers of the Deaf, audiologists and other professionals). Some schools have special units where deaf children are taught together but there are some deaf children who are the only deaf child in their class.

This has been a quick look at Then and Now. If you want to know what happened in between, you will have to read the history when it comes out.

Deaf People on the Road



The third DVD in our series of “My Firsts” was launched at our AGM in October. Deaf People on the Road features 31 Deaf Scots (a good balance of 16 men and 15 women) sharing their memories of:

learning to drive, sitting their driving test, issues with insurance and breaking down. All simple enough

activities, but made all the more challenging when you remember that all of these people are Deaf. How did their driving instructors communicate with them? How many were charged a premium for their insurance or even refused cover - just for being Deaf? It may seem a nonsense now, but this is the Deaf experience in the raw.

Presenting an excellent and rare collection of memories, this DVD is made accessible to hearing viewers through the addition of captions.

Copies were freely distributed at our AGM. Supporters and other interested parties are encouraged to visit our office to collect their free copy - while stocks last!

We are of course indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for making this project possible.



SCoD is registered as an umbrella body with Disclosure Scotland. That means we can countersign disclosure applications on behalf of other organisations which may be too small to warrant becoming signatories themselves.

Most of the applicants require a PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Disclosure as they will be working with children and/or protected adults and have been asked by their employer to get a Scheme Record which needs countersigned.

The applicants come into our office with original identification which we check and then we go through the form with them. We have to be satisfied that the work they will be doing is Regulated Work under Disclosure Scotland rules. Under the new PVG scheme this is when the worker has regular unsupervised contact with a child or protected adult as part of their normal every day duties.

Individuals who are self-employed or who want a PVG Disclosure before applying for a job or voluntary position can apply for a Scheme Membership Statement (not countersigned). We have discovered though, that because the only information which appears on the Scheme Membership statement is whether or not the individual is barred from working with children and/or protected adults, in some cases a new employer will ask for a full PVG Scheme Record which shows all relevant information. This means an additional full fee to Disclosure Scotland, something we feel we should make applicants aware of.

As the only umbrella body in Glasgow registered with Disclosure Scotland we receive requests for countersignatures from a wide variety of applicants. It's interesting to meet them and find out what they are doing and many of them show an interest in SCoD's work when they come to the office.



Membership

As the umbrella body for deaf organisations in Scotland, we have representatives from local deaf organisations, national deaf

organisations, audiology, social work, education and interpreting agencies. This means we have a good cross-section of views at our National Council meetings.

It is disappointing that our membership has not increased in recent years and this was one of the areas we looked at during our review with Pilotlight.

We surveyed our current members as well as members of the Scottish Government, Local Authorities, NHS Scotland and other statutory bodies to ask for their input. Encouragingly the majority of respondents were very

happy with the work we do, and gave suggestions as to what they would like us to address in future. The Management Committee will be discussing how to incorporate these suggestions in our future plans. We were grateful that so many of those we asked took the time to respond.

The former members who responded to our question said that their reasons for leaving were mainly financial – they were cutting down on subscriptions to several organisations, not just SCoD.

There are plans to reach out more widely to attract new members in the near future.

In the meantime, though, we must thank those members who have supported us faithfully over the years. Some have been with us from the beginning – more of this under **Then and Now** - SCoD's History on pages 10 & 11.



At the end of 2012 we asked our members and supporters to tell us their wish for deaf people in Scotland. We wanted to know what people really wanted in their hearts – without having to think about how to achieve it. The passion for BSL was clear in the responses. Here are just a few.

My wish would be that the BSL Bill was passed and that a definite action plan was enforced enabling Deaf BSL Children to have access to equal education opportunities.

To have BSL in schools.

Better communication between hearing & Deaf people. By that I mean at hospitals/doctors/police/shops etc.

Full access through BSL, by Act of the Scottish Parliament. Full equality with every other citizen of Scotland. Full inclusion in the political, civic and cultural life of Scotland. Rich cultural development in every area of Deaf life.

Scotland passes a BSL Act which has real impact in preserving and promoting British Sign Language for future generations of Deaf people.

People also wished that:



Everyone in Scotland could use BSL
Every person they met could sign
Deaf people be given access to full sport coaching to become stars like their hearing peers
and there were captions on everything





Enquiries

One thing about being the person who answers the office phone is that

you never know what you're going to be asked next.

We were recently contacted by a Deaf Travel Agent from California who was planning a trip to Scotland with a group of Deaf Americans. It was a real pleasure to be able to point out places of interest (and an excuse to throw in some Scottish Deaf History as well). We hope they enjoyed their trip.

That was a one off. We still receive regular enquiries from people looking to attend lip-reading classes and also from lip-reading tutors enquiring about funding which varies from one Local Authority to another. The campaign continues to have lipreading recognised as rehabilitation rather than recreation.

Another frequently asked question is about communication support from deaf people attending public meetings or meeting with a professional such as their Solicitor.

Under the Equality Act, there is a duty to provide access for deaf people by means of BSL/English interpreters, notetakers and/or a loop system as a reasonable adjustment. It seems there are service providers who are still not providing this as a matter of course. We are able to assure callers that they are entitled to these provisions.

We have had a number of enquiries this year about statistics on deafness, but we are unable to provide accurate, up to date information. Although we appealed to the General Registrar of Scotland to include questions in the 2011 census which would provide this essential information, they were unable to do so. We are working on other ways to gather these statistics.

Another pleasing enquiry was from some drama students looking to find out more about Deaf Theatre.

These are just some examples of questions we are asked but callers are many and varied and we have to keep up with what's happening in order to be able to respond.

Strategic Review

We worked with Pilotlight to review our vision, membership, governance and organisational structure. As the current Director intimated her intention to retire at the end of 2013 we also looked at succession planning.

Two sub-committees, consisting of SCoD Management Committee members and staff members, were set up: Vision & Membership and Governance & Succession Planning.

Both sub-committees met monthly from October 2012 to February 2013.

The Vision & Membership Sub-committee devised online surveys for SCoD member organisations and other key stakeholders including the Scottish Government, NHS health boards and local authorities. Survey results stated that they were very satisfied with the way SCoD operates and gave many useful suggestions for work priorities. As a result of this feedback, we created a new vision for SCoD, which is "Our Vision is a society where deaf people have equal opportunities, equal access, equal rights and citizenship".

Mental Health

The Governance & Succession Planning Sub-committee reviewed the current constitution, guidelines for trustees, standing orders, financial policies & procedures and many more. They recommended to the Management Committee that we convert to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to reduce members and trustees' liabilities. This was agreed and a new constitution is currently drafted.

A five year strategic plan has been prepared and discussed first by both sub-committees and then the Management Committee which approved the strategic plan in March 2013.

On the Governance & Succession Planning Sub-committee's recommendations, the Management Committee agreed to set up a Recruitment & Selection sub-committee with a remit to appoint a new Director by the end of 2013.

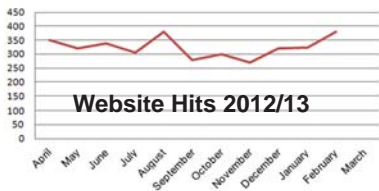
Our Mental Health and Deaf People Task Group (MHDPTG) met on a three monthly basis. The MHDPTG set up a Deaf Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (DCAMHS) sub-committee and completed a Campaign Report approved by the MHDPTG. The DCAMHS Sub-committee was then disbanded and a new DCAMHS Campaign Group was set up. The latter group comprises representatives from SCoD, National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), West Scotland Deaf Children's Society and Deaf Action. The DCAMHS Campaign Report was launched in the Scottish Parliament's Garden Lobby on 5th February 2013. SCoD and NDCS lobbied MSPs and their research staff for three days and gained the support of over 40 MSPs. Jenny Marra MSP lodged a motion in support of this Campaign which raised concerns about the mental health of Scotland's deaf children and young people and highlighted the need for a

dedicated service. We produced BSL video clips explaining the campaign and translating the campaign booklet which can be viewed on our You Tube channel – <http://www.youtube.com/deafscotland>
The DCAMHS Campaign Group also met with key people in the Scottish Government and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The MHDPTG continued to meet regularly and arranged for speakers to talk about Alzheimer Scotland, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), Deaf Awareness Training for Mental Health Nurses and the Scottish Government's Mental Health Strategy. A sub-group was set up to work with Sandy McComish of University of Stirling to develop a deaf awareness training programme for nurses.



Nicola Noon Information Service



Our website saw **205,268 visitors**, averaging over **17,000 every month** and thus each day we receive around **570** visitors. Our website calendar saw a revamp as we upgraded to Google Calendar. This transition was seamless and the new calendar offers a number of advantages over the old one - not least of which is providing a direct link to Google Maps for venue and directions details! The calendar, which provides details of captioned cinema and theatre, BSL interpreted theatre, accessible courses, conferences, meetings and events throughout Scotland,

offered **3,931 individual listings** over the year. That averages out at around **twelve** events each day and is once again an impressive increase on last year. The home page of our website allows us to post news stories. Last year we alerted you to **75** deaf related news items; so if you haven't checked out our website recently, perhaps you should!

www.scod.org.uk

Website Annual Hits since 2008



The graph above charts our annual website usage since the site was revamped in 2008. It is pleasing to see an overall increase, year on year.



We produced twelve parliamentary digest reports, featuring questions, answers, motions and other relevant business in the Scottish Parliament. They were distributed in print, by email and through our website.

Twelve monthly issues of the bulletin were prepared and circulated in print and by email to SCoD members, associates, supporters and all 129 MSPs. View past issues on our website: www.scod.org.uk

Newsletter



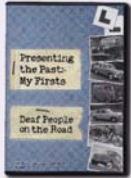
Two issues of our newsletter were produced and distributed.

Issues 26 and 27 of the bi-annual SCoDNEWS were prepared inhouse, published and distributed to around 5,000 individuals and organisations.

Issue 26 invited readers to join in our debate about the value of establishing a deaf register. We also celebrated the 30th anniversary of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and discussed the proliferation of the 'one-stop shop'.

Issue 27 featured coverage of our surprise win at the Signature Annual Awards and included an article about a Deaf social worker. We also launched the Employment Research

project and applauded the commitment of Glasgow Museums to make their service not only accessible but also welcoming to deaf people. Newsletters can be viewed as animated pdfs on: www.issuu.com and can also be downloaded from our website.



As you will have seen on page 11, we completed the third DVD in our Presenting the

Past series, **Deaf People on the Road**. This was produced inhouse by the Heritage Team, comprising Alison Coyle, Lilian Lawson OBE and Nicola Noon.

We continued to represent SCoD on the Scottish Accessible Information Forum and the Ecommunication sub-committee.



The success of our history project 'Presenting the Past: My Firsts' encouraged us to approach the Heritage Lottery Fund once again to seek funding for our 'Back to School' dvds, and also to run a series of 6 workshops across Scotland in partnership with Deaf History Scotland. We were delighted to receive an additional £37,900 in support of this work in September 2012.

We also proved successful with an application to the Big Lottery Fund: Investing in Ideas for a research project to assess the employment needs of deaf people. In June 2012 we received a grant of £9,625 for the project. Another lottery funder, Awards for All, awarded us a grant of £3,818 in


November 2012 towards the cost of producing our position statements.

Our rolling programme of application to trusts and foundations has continued, and we have successfully received additional contributions towards our position statements and other projects. Despite the difficult economic climate we were extremely grateful for the support of Martin Connell Charitable Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Souter Charitable Trust, JTH Charitable Trust, AM Pilkington Charitable Trust, Row Fogo Charitable Trust, EIS Renfrewshire, the Cruden Foundation and the General Teaching Council. We were also delighted to receive a donation from St Bridget's Primary School

in Kilbrinie following fundraising activities during Deaf Awareness Week.

We are continuing to work successfully in partnership with Charitytrek to promote fundraising treks in Scotland in aid of SCoD, and have signed up to BT's free online fundraising service, MyDonate. We are also still working with Recycle 4 Charity, raising money through recycling used mobile phones and ink cartridges.

We are indebted to everyone who has contributed financially towards our charity, including the many individuals who have been good enough to make regular donations over the years. Our vital work continues thanks to you.

Thank you! 

Mandy Reid Policy and Research

This past year has been dominated by the Department of Work and Pensions welfare reform changes from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This work has involved many consultation papers, comments on the toolkit and the letters that will go to new claimants, and meetings in Birmingham and London to discuss how the transition from DLA to PIP will happen for people, especially since the new system is telephone-based and so not accessible for deaf people.

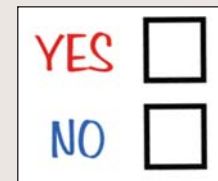
Another big piece of policy work was on the Scottish Breast Screening Programme Review. This was the first review that had taken place for this programme that has been running for ten years. SCoD agreed to consult deaf women on what changes to the programme they would like to see. Unfortunately the consultation period was not the usual 12 weeks so there

was only time to organise one consultation meeting with deaf women. A questionnaire was emailed and posted out to deaf women to ensure they had the opportunity to take part in the consultation. Once the consultation period was over, we met with NHS National Services Scotland to put together a checklist for future consultation with deaf people.

The second BSL (Scotland) Bill consultation took place this year and we completed papers on Q and As for SCoD's Associate members and National Council to help members submit responses to the consultation.

We submitted written evidence to the Scottish Parliament on "Underemployment of deaf people in Scotland". This tied in with the work being done for the SCoD Employment Research project. We also submitted written evidence on the Referendum Bill asking for full access to the whole process of the referendum on Scotland's

independence for all deaf people, including access to information and any debates that will take place. We submitted 33 consultation responses this year as well as attending many consultation events. These included consultations on the new Police Force for Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as well as the Patient Rights Charter. Finally, the Policy and Research Officer went to Stornoway in the Western Isles to hear firsthand the issues that deaf people living in a very remote and rural area have. These include the lack of communication support on the islands, the isolation for older deaf people and the lack of deaf awareness of frontline staff. There is now a one-stop shop based in Stornoway that is looking at possible solutions to these problems.



Representations

Wide representation is essential to our awareness raising work so that issues affecting Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind people remain high on the agenda. To this end, we continued our representation on the following committees and working groups:



National Health Service

- NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Mental Health and Deaf People Working Group
- NHS National Services Division Quality Monitoring Panel - inpatient mental health services for deaf people
- NHS 24 Public Partnership Forum
- NHS 24 National BSL Interpreting Pilot Team



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Cross Party Groups:

- on Deafness
- on Mental Health
- on Health Inequalities



The Scottish
Government

Scottish Government:

Audiology Services Advisory Group
Mental Health Sensory Impairment Network
National Sensory Impairment Group

Equality Unit:

- Policy and Engagement Officers Network
- Independent Living in Scotland Core Reference Group
- Inclusive Communication Action Group

**ACTION ON
HEARING
LOSS**

SAiF
Scottish Accessible
Information Forum

SSC

DA+S



BSL and Linguistic Access Working Group
Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group
Scottish Accessible Information Forum
Scottish Sensory Centre Advisory Committee
Moray House Deaf Achievement Scotland Working Group
SCVO's Policy Officers Network
Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance
Transport Scotland's Roads for All Forum
Signature's National Advisory Committee



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**

Signature
excellence in communication with
deaf people in Scotland



HM Government **DWP**

UK Government:

- DWP PIP Stakeholder Implementation Forum
- DWP PIP Continuous Improvement Working Group
- DWP PIP Communications Working Group

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Our postal address is: Central Chambers Suite 62, 93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD.
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We also have textphones: **0141 248 1854** and **2477**, a mobile for SMS: **07925 417338** and a fax: **0141 248 2479**
Our main email address is: admin@scod.org.uk
and our website address is: www.scod.org.uk
We have a YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/deafscotland, where we post video clips.

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