

We cannot use information in posters, PDFs, or publisher in the bulletin.

***Please note: at the end of this bulletin is a template. If you want information included in future bulletins, please copy and use this template. If information is not sent to us in the template, we will not include it.
Thank you.**

Scottish Council on Deafness Bulletin | Bi-Monthly Magazine for SCoD Members



SCoD is 90 years old this year and we are planning a number of events to celebrate.

More information will be available on the SCoD website and in future bulletins.

Membership

Thank you to all our members who have paid their membership for this year...we value you as members and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

If you are not a member of SCoD, maybe you would consider joining – its only £20 a year for Associate membership.

We have three categories of membership:

- Full members. These are the organisations that make up the National Council and can put forward nominations to the SCoD Board.
- Associate members - organisations. These are organisations who cannot be full members or do not want the responsibility of full membership.
- Associate members - individuals. These are individuals, people who are deaf or have an interest in deafness and want to support our organisation.

We also want to recruit new members to support our work.

- On BSL language development

- Communication barriers and solutions
- General awareness

If you want to know more about joining SCoD and being part of the Deaf Sector, please contact us on admin@scod.org.uk or telephone 0141 248 2474.

If you are a BSL user, you can use [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#) to contact us.

Manifestos

Thanks to all our members who responded with suggestions/"asks" for the SCoD manifestos. They have been sent on to all political parties fielding candidates in the election. The Council Election manifesto will be sent onto all the newly elected councillors so that they are fully aware of the Deaf Sector "asks".

SCoD's "Connect & Collaborate" Conference 2018

We are starting work on the next conference which will take place on **8 March 2018**. The theme will be "**Connect and Collaborate**" and will be around the topic "**Integration, Inclusion and Well Being**". If you have any ideas or wish to help with sponsorship, please contact claire@scod.org.uk

Disclosure Protecting Vulnerable Adults

SCoD is registered as a Countersignatory body with Disclosure Scotland. If you need staff to be members of the PVG Scheme but are not able to sign the forms yourself, why not get SCoD to do it for you!

For more information about booking an appointment or general information, please visit our website: <http://www.scod.org.uk/disclosure-for-working-with-protected-groups/>

Best wishes
Janis & the SCoD Team

GENERAL NEWS

DSP / BSL National Plan Update



Scottish Government's Draft British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan is now CLOSED!

The Scottish Government's consultation on the Draft British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan is now closed. We would like to thank everyone who came to the BSL National Plan Consultation events. We had a huge range of people taking part.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government and Communities Committee: Call for views on homelessness

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee has launched a call for views from all interested organisations and individuals as part of the work it is undertaking on homelessness.

The call for views can be accessed at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/104570.aspx>.

If you wish to respond to the Committee then please send your submissions to LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot no later than **Wednesday 14 June 2017**. Please note that written submissions to the Committee are published on the Committee's website in line with the Parliament's [policy on treatment of written evidence by Committees](#). We'd be grateful if you could confirm that you are content for your submission to be published in line with the policy.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Committee's call for views then please contact a member of the clerking team.

Chris Hynd
Committee Assistant
Local Government and Communities Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Direct Dial: 0131 348 5206
TextRelay: 18001 0131 348 5206
Fax: 0131 348 5600
Email: LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Scottish Government launch consultation on draft regulations transferring the ASNTS into the Scottish Tribunals

The Scottish Government has today launched a consultation on draft regulations that transfer the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland to the Scottish Tribunals. The consultation is available at the link below:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/tribunals-administrative-justice-policy/additional-support-needs-tribunals/>

Closing date is 1 August 2017.

Scottish Disability Equality Forum



Scottish Disability Equality Forum is working with Transport Scotland to undertake research into Accessible Travel. In September 2016, Transport Scotland published Scotland's first [Accessible Travel Framework](#). This is a new plan, co-produced with disabled people to help improve their access to travel.

Transport Scotland has a vision that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice, dignity and opportunity as others.

Our research involves gathering the views of disabled people on how you find travelling on public transport just now, and how Transport Scotland's work to apply the framework can best help improve accessibility for disabled people.

To help with this, we, Scottish Disability Equality Forum have developed a survey. We would like this to be completed by as many disabled people as possible, so please share it round your networks. This survey will act as a baseline to gather information about experiences of public transport, and we will build on this over the lifetime of the Accessible Travel Framework.

Complete the survey by clicking [here](#)
(if the hyper link does not work for you, please
visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HNBTQHT>)

There is an easy read version available on request.

The survey will be open until **June 9 2017**.

We're here to help so you can contact Maureen Bennison at the Scottish Disability Equality Forum on 01259 272064 or at maureen.bennison@sdef.org.uk Alternatively, contact accessibletravel@transport.gov.scot if you have any questions or want to get in touch.



A UK symbol for Communication Access: take part in the consultation

Over the last year a number of organisations have been working together to discuss launching a communication access symbol for the UK. There has been input from international partners and work with other sectors such as visual and hearing impairment.

The wheelchair symbol is one of the most well-known symbols in the world. The aim is to have a recognisable symbol for communication to be used by a business or service. If they display the symbol it means that staff have received training as to how to support people with communication difficulties and are meeting minimum standards.

The survey to guide the decision as to what symbol will be chosen is now online and we encourage as many people as possible to fill it in. **The initial closing date is Friday 9 June.**

We have tried to make it as accessible as possible but recognise that some people may need additional support to help them complete it. Please use whatever method is appropriate such as supported conversation, symbol support or a Talking Mats framework. We would like to have a significant percentage of responses from people who have communication difficulties.

A hyperlink to the consultation survey is below:

Consultation to select a UK symbol for Communication Access -
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C7F9Z95>

The survey can also be downloaded as a hard copy www.communicationmatters.org.uk

This is an exciting project which we feel will have a significant impact in the UK. We hope you will want to be part of the consultation. We would be delighted to deal with any queries you may have – Derek Munn at the RCSLT derek.munn@rcslt.org or Cathy Harris at Communication Matters accessproject@communicationmatters.org.uk

EVENTS



An invitation to take part in a discussion about Scottish Legal Aid

Wednesday 21 June 2017

Are you a disabled person or a person with a long-term condition? Have you used, or tried to use Legal Aid to take a legal case? What was your experience?

Then we'd like to invite you to take part in an informal discussion with the people who are reviewing legal aid in Scotland. The Review Group wants to look at how legal aid can help address inequalities, promote social justice and improve people's lives. The report of the Review will include recommendations for changes and will be presented to Government for them to address.

The Review Group wants to hear from disabled people, people with long-term conditions (and their carers if applicable) about their experiences of legal aid and use this to help them make their recommendations to the Government. Your issue might have been about how easy it was to find out about legal aid, the amount of aid you could get, what you could use it for, things that you needed but which were not covered by legal aid. They might be about how accessible the legal aid system was to use. You might also have ideas about how to make it better for disabled people.

Details of the event -

- When - 21st June 2017
- When - 12.30 to 14.30 (2 hours)
- Where - Edinburgh
- Access and inclusion – please rsvp with details of any requirements for access and inclusion, including support for communication, travel and for Personal Assistance. Please also advise of any dietary requirements. ILiS will endeavour to meet all requests.

Would you like to come? This is a small event for up to 12 people, so places will be allocated as responses are received. Please tell us about any access or dietary requirements you have and also if you need help with travel and travel costs. **Please contact us by the 9th June.**

Email: admin@ilis.co.uk

Write: ILiS Project, Brunswick House, 51 Wilson Street, G1 1UZ

Telephone: [0141 559 5013](tel:01415595013) (message service available). Please note that I work part-time but voice messages will be picked up on my return.

We look forward to hearing from you. We will contact you the same way you contacted us to let you know if we have a space for you.

Exclusive ITV SignPost Scotland Press Release

I am pleased to announce to SCOD members that the first ever CITV programme that features 2 child BSL presenters is now ready to air. The programme is called a Mission Employable Agents.



ITV SignPost devised and created this programme to showcase the talent of D/deaf people of all ages. We are very proud to have been commissioned by CITV to do this.

The times and showings of the children's programme are listed below.

The programmes will be broadcast on the CITV channel (Freeview and other digital channel providers).

Thursday 1st June - 08:15, 17:55 & 20:55

Become a Zookeeper (Danny main presenter and Kym translator)

Friday 2nd June - 08:15, 17:55 & 20:55

Become a Firefighter (Kym main presenter and Danny translator)

Feedback can be emailed to Joseph.Sheridan@itv.com

British Deaf Association Scotland - Deaf Roots and Pride Day Saturday 10 June 2017



Come and help us celebrate Deaf Roots and Pride Day, a UK-wide day to celebrate the British Deaf Association Deaf Roots and Pride Project. In Glasgow the BDA Scotland has organised a free guided tour in BSL of the Riverside (transport) Museum at 100 Pointhouse Place, Glasgow, G3 8RS on Saturday 10 June 2017 from 1pm to approximately 3pm for all families where a parent and/or a child is D/deaf.

This will be a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends! Everybody is welcome but please note that children under 16 can come along only if accompanied by an adult. Meeting place will be outside the main entrance.

Please contact Lesley Winning for a booking form and more information Lesley Winning at adminscot.drp@bda.org.uk or call 0141 248 5565.

Integrated Health and Social Care services – aligned budgets and strategic commissioning”



Friday 09 June 2017, The Academy, Ingram Street, Glasgow

Held as Integrated Joint Boards begin preparations for their new strategic commissioning plans for 2019, this one-day training conference will explore:

- integrated health and social care budgets – looking at the finances, resource pressures and key challenges facing IJBs in developing integrated budgets
- the next steps for strategic commissioning – what does successful strategic commissioning look like?

- the importance of effective engagement with service providers in the private and third sectors to help design and commission services based around user needs
- removing the barriers between commissioners and providers and other opportunities to improve the commissioning process

Speakers confirmed so far...

- Jillian Matthew, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland
- Neil Findlay MSP, Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee
- Diana Hekerem, Head of Strategic Commissioning Support, Improvement Hub, Healthcare Improvement Scotland

Chaired by...

- Alex Davidson, Chair of the Scottish Adult Protection Convenors Committee & Independent Chair, Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee

More information on the event – including the background to the conference, rates to attend and directions to the venue – can be found here...

www.policyhubscotland.co.uk/events/integrated-budgets-and-commissioning-conference/

Book two delegates and get a third place at half-price. Offer valid until Tuesday 06 June 2017.

If you are interested in attending, have any queries or would like more information, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you: brian@cppseminarsscotland.co.uk

NESS Grampian Transport Museum in Alford Event Sunday 11 July 2017



North East Sensory Services (NESS) is holding a 'Drive of your life' event, where blind people, and fully-sighted drivers wearing blindfolds, are invited to take the wheels around the Alford racing track (accompanied by qualified driving instructors!), on Sunday 11 July.

Drivers invited to drive blind at Aberdeenshire track

Blind people are inviting people to wear a blindfold and take part in an exhilarating blind driving event in Aberdeenshire.

North East Sensory Services (NESS), which has offices in Aberdeen, Elgin and Dundee, is holding its annual 'Drive of your Life' event on Sunday 11th June 2017, at the Grampian Transport Museum track in Alford.

The event will enable blind and blindfolded drivers to drive around the track, accompanied by qualified driving instructors from the Inverurie and District Driving Schools Association.

NESS, which has been supporting people in the North-east since 1879, provides care and advice to people who have sight and/or hearing loss.

The Drive of your Life event was developed by NESS following requests from visually impaired men and women who no longer drive, but miss the thrill of getting behind the wheel. The popular event has been extended this year to encourage people with full sight to experience life without vision in an extreme, yet safe, environment.

This event must be pre-booked with a charge of £15 per person, either at www.nesensoryservices.org or by email susan.hewitt@nesensoryservices.org or on 0345 271 2345.

Adept Scotland Conference: Aiming higher for deaf students - What works? What could work? Saturday 24 June 2017

The Conference will be held at the Scottish Sensory Centre on Saturday June 24th at the University of Edinburgh. The day costs £50 and will be a wonderful opportunity to improve your knowledge of the field of deaf education. The programme is now online, showing a great line-up of speakers from Scotland, the UK and internationally. The day will offer many opportunities to network with others involved in the field of deafness and disability studies.

Link to the conference website:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/adeptconference.html>

If you have any questions about the conference organisation, please send them to: sscmail@ed.ac.uk

Healthy Deaf Minds Scotland Conference

When: **Friday 16 June 2017**

Time: **9.30 to 4pm**

Where: **Main Hall, Deaf Connections, 100 Norfolk Street, Glasgow, G5 9EJ**



Working with a deaf actor, using role play and examples based on clinical experience, come and see how Deaf mental health services work to improve deaf people's experiences of mental health.

Coffee/tea and lunch are provided free of charge.

Everyone (Deaf and hearing) is welcome to attend - BSL/English sign language interpreters and electronic note-takers are provided.

Places are free but doors close to latecomers at 10am.

Enquiries and booking of places can be made to

Barbara.A.Brown@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Deaf Links Tartan Glamour Ball

Saturday 26th August 2017



Join us in sparkling reception, 3 course meal, dancing, music & raffle, while raising vital funds for the Deaf Links advocacy service.

This will take place at West Park Conference Centre, Perth Road, Dundee.

Ticket prices: early special before 30th June - £36 or table of 10 £350

After 30th June - tickets £40 or table of 10 £390

For any more information please contact Vikki@deaflinks.org.uk

TRAINING

Outcomes for Children who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired

Understanding language and literacy challenges —
Issues in access, assessment, and intervention
Friday, 23rd June, 2017



Professor Greg Leigh has updated the content and focus of the CPD day he is presenting for the SSC - see below - it is a great opportunity to hear from a leading international expert.

Children with hearing loss (particularly those with severe to profound loss) have better opportunities for developmental and academic outcomes than at any time in the history of

educational intervention for this group. In particular, average language and literacy levels for deaf children continue to rise. Nevertheless, there continues to be high levels of variability among linguistic, literacy, and academic outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children. Notably, there continues to be a higher incidence of literacy difficulties than among the broader population of learners. Presentations will cover a range of issues associated with the current educational situation for deaf and hard of hearing learners. Specifically, topics will include:

- The impact of earlier identification and intervention for deaf and hard of hearing learners. Specifically, outcomes of research including the Long Term Outcomes for Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) Study in Australia and a review of international literature relating to earlier identification and intervention—particularly earlier access to cochlear implant technology and related research into literacy development and outcomes. The evidence for the continuing diversity of outcomes associated with early intervention and later educational practices will be considered from the perspective of literacy.
- Presentations will consider models of reading development and intervention to argue for the appropriateness of adopting an "interactive model". This will include examination of the factors that may account for differential outcomes among deaf and hard of hearing readers. It will be suggested that the issue of language proficiency—defined as the ability to control "decontextualised" or "academic" language as opposed to merely having well developed basic interpersonal communication skills—is a highly significant factor in accounting for reading difficulties in deaf learners. Implications for practice will be considered.
- Issues in the teaching of literacy will be considered, particularly in the critical area of vocabulary development. The workshop will consider specific issues in vocabulary acquisition—developing and sustaining vocabulary development across the curriculum.

Presenter:

Professor Greg Leigh, AO, PhD, FACE, Conjoint Professor and Director, RIDBC Renwick Centre, Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, NSW Australia.

Course fee:

£110

Applications are available to download from the following link:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/djun17a.html>

If you wish to pay by card please use the link below:

http://www.epay.ed.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&prodid=2355

SSC Course 22: Video Interaction Guidance (VIG): Friday, 16th June, 2017

SSC
scottish sensory centre

This course will be helpful to practitioners in schools, early years' settings, social care settings; those with an interest in social communication, speech and language development.

This course will focus on children in the early years and case studies will demonstrate how video feedback has been used to bridge the education setting and family home, and increase parental confidence in supporting children with additional complex needs.

The presenter will also demonstrate the principles and practices of the social development of language with reference to research using video feedback with families where children have complex communication needs. Deborah will also discuss the [therapeutic practices that bring about change](#).

Presenter:

Dr Deborah James, Associate Professor, Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing, Faculty of Health & Life Sciences, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Course fee:

£110

Applications are available to download from the following link:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/general/gfeb17.html>

A Unique Opportunity for Freelance Interpreters The Effective Freelancer & What Are You Worth 2017?



9th September 2017, we return five months later for our second workshop, “What Are You Worth?”

Having had five months to put into practice your learning from “The Effective Freelancer”, this workshop explores your business skills in greater depth, and sets it in the context of your collective business development.

First run in 2010, WAYW has already been attended by a large percentage of the UK's freelance interpreters.

In this workshop we explore the psychology of negotiation, review your business models to understand the actual costs involved in delivering sign language interpreting services, Building on the effective freelancer workshop in April we take an in depth review to understand the actual costs involved in delivering sign language interpreting services, develop your realistic business model in the context of the evolving political and economic scene, explore advanced strategies and professional skills needed to build into our businesses for the long term, and throughout the day set this in the context of collegiate and collective action.

This workshop is run by Ben Phillips & Darren Townsend-Handscomb

For more information, contact Deaf Perspective on

Email: info@deafperspective.co.uk

Tel: 0141 314 0032

Fax: 0141 314 0026

SMS: 07979 748694

VACANCIES



Are you a qualified Social Worker, a motivated team player and passionate about promoting quality of life and independence?

We have the following vacancy in our Social Care team. The team is responsible for the provision of an effective social work service and care assessment & management on behalf of 4 local authorities, ensuring that deaf individuals receive appropriate assessments of need and services to promote quality of life and independence.

Social Worker 35 hours per week

£25,800-£30,800 (to be negotiated, dependent on qualifications & experience)

Deaf Action is looking for a qualified social worker who is well-organised and enthusiastic to work with a diverse service user group. A high standard of interpersonal and communication skills is essential but you will also need to have excellent analytical, writing & reporting skills, be able to pick up new things quickly and cope with a varied workload. You will be a supportive team player while confidently working to your own initiative when required, be open to feedback & reflection and have a commitment to continuous personal development.

Being able to communicate in British Sign Language is essential – we will provide additional training if necessary. Applications from deaf people are welcome.

In return, we offer a very supportive environment, the opportunity to work with varied service user groups and a commitment to developing employees.

Closing date: 12th June 2017

Interview date: 27th June 2017

For an informal discussion about this post please contact
Elin Cowan, Senior Social Work Practitioner, elin.cowan@deafaction.org or
Frankie McLean, Operations Manager, frankie.mclean@deafaction.org

Application packs are available from
Lisa Roy, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY
0131 556 3128, fax 0131557 8283, textphone 0131 557 0419
SMS 07775 620757, email admin@deafaction.org
www.deafaction.org

CINEMA/THEATRE



Subtitled/Captioned Accessible Cinema!
2,000+ shows nationwide!

Wonder Woman, Pirates of the Caribbean Salazar's Revenge, Baywatch, Diary Of A Wimpy Kid The Long Haul, Snatched, Alien Covenant, King Arthur Legend Of The Sword, Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 2, Beauty and the Beast & more!

<http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/films.html>

Entertain AND Educate! Cheap subtitled kids shows!
<http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/kids.html>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/yourlocalcinema/likes>

Download the app! Automatically find all subtitled shows nearby. Apple & Android:
<http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/appdownload.html>

All cinemas can show all the films listed above with English-language subtitles. Please ask your nearest cinemas to provide accessible shows for people with hearing loss! Shows added as announced. Check the website or app regularly for full subtitled listings: Locations, dates, times & trailers.

IMPORTANT! Shows sometimes change. Double check with the ACTUAL cinema or cinemas website before you plan a visit.

To make it easier to find what's subtitled in cinemas near you, let us know the cinemas/areas you'd like listed and we'll create a personal page - just for you! Bookmark it on your computer or phone and view it every Fri to see what's on near you for the coming week.

Just email: subtitles@yourlocalcinema.com

Latest subtitled trailers!

The Mummy, Transformers The Last Knight, Wonder Woman, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales, Baywatch, Snatched, Cars 3, Blade Runner 2049, War For The Planet Of The Apes, Dunkirk, Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets & more:
<http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/trailers.html>

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, MOTIONS AND DEBATES

Further Education (National Bargaining)

The next item of business is a **statement by John Swinney** on national bargaining in the further education sector. The cabinet secretary will take questions at the end of the statement, so there should be no interventions or interruptions during it.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney):

Over the past 10 years, the Scottish Government has been implementing an ambitious programme to reform post-16 education. Our purpose has been clear and consistent over that time: to create a national college sector that is more efficient and effective and that is able to meet stretching measures and outcomes. We remain committed to creating a sector that is better suited to our national priorities, including the delivery of skills and opportunities, particularly for our young people, to meet their needs and those of our economy. I am increasingly confident that our colleges have a clear, focused role in delivering a skilled workforce for their regions and have developed new and enhanced relationships with employers around curriculum planning, work experience and employability skills. Delivering the right curriculum in the right place has been critical to that development, alongside significantly improved partnership arrangements with local authorities, universities, schools and community planning partnerships.

The focus is now very much on full-time learning opportunities that lead to recognised qualifications and employment, particularly for young people, and the evidence increasingly demonstrates that that approach is working. The number of full-time funded students aged 16 to 24 has increased by more than 11 per cent since 2006-07. Our youth unemployment rate is at its lowest level since the series began in 1992 and is the third lowest in the European Union. In 2015-16, almost 12,000 more students successfully completed full-time courses in further and higher education that led to recognised qualifications than did so in 2008-09.

Colleges are not just delivering for young people. Under this Government, the number of full-time students aged 25 and over has increased by more than 33 per cent since 2006-07. The sector is also delivering for women, with the number on full-time courses up by more than 12 per cent over the same period.

Our colleges play a key role in our success in higher education. More than 41 per cent of all full-time college activity in 2015-16 was in higher education, which is the highest proportion ever.

Colleges are also playing a crucial role in widening access. Many students from the most challenging backgrounds begin their post-16 education journeys in college. More than 16 per cent of college provision was delivered to students from the 10 per cent most deprived areas in 2014-15, and more than 29 per cent of all students came from the 20 per cent most deprived communities.

Those are real achievements, of which our colleges can be proud. Lecturing and support staff, and the students themselves, have all helped to make that happen.

I am in no doubt that our college sector is now better placed than ever to enable students to flourish and succeed, and to build the workforce that Scotland's employers need—now and in future. Our colleges must continue to develop and innovate to deliver the type of learning that society, the economy and individuals need for the future.

All college staff and leaders are committed to our ambitious programme of change and improvement. Over the past few years, there has been significant restructuring of the sector to create a more sustainable and viable platform for delivering high-quality further and higher education. College staff have played a full part in securing those necessary and beneficial changes, and I commend them for their commitment. Nevertheless, there is more still to be done to secure our vision of a world-class college sector.

From the outset, we agreed with college employers and staff that a harmonised approach to pay, terms and conditions for lecturers and support staff was integral to creating a modern, flexible sector. We agreed that that would best be delivered by a system of national bargaining that rightly places responsibility for reaching agreement with representatives of employers and staff, through their national joint negotiating committee. The present dispute has its roots in the agreement reached last March by that committee, and a disagreement between the Colleges Scotland employers association and the Educational Institute of Scotland on the relationship between pay and terms and conditions.

On pay, while the precise levels of increase will vary depending on personal circumstances, the agreement that has already been reached will see all unpromoted lecturing staff receive an average pay rise of 9 per cent over a three-year period. That means that, at the top of their salary scale, unpromoted staff will now earn up to £40,026 a year. While some details remain to be resolved, that part of the agreement has been in place for some time.

What has not been agreed are the terms and conditions. While both parties agree in principle to harmonisation in order to create the right platform for a further education workforce for the future, the nature of that harmonisation is disputed. The employers are clear that a national pay award should be linked to agreement on harmonised terms and conditions, while the EIS maintains that they should be separate. Although both sides agree that matters such as staff teaching hours and annual leave should be the same across the country instead of varying from college to college as they do now, they disagree on what the harmonised terms and conditions should be.

There are two key issues: the number of core teaching hours; and the number of annual leave days. The employers have proposed that the majority of lecturers should have up to 24 hours a week of core teaching time; the EIS has proposed that it should be up to 22. The employers believe that they are asking for no more than the sector norm on hours; the union does not accept that.

On annual leave, the employers' offer is for existing staff to retain their current entitlement without change, while new staff would have 56 days a year. The EIS has proposed 64 days a year for all lecturers, with no detriment for existing staff.

This dispute, then, is not simply about pay. The issues of core teaching hours and annual leave are among the most difficult to resolve.

To read the rest of the statement and the question/answer session after, go to <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10947>

For the BSL version of the statement, go to http://www.scottishparliament.tv/20170516_statements_bsl_2

Disabled People

S5M-05594, in the name of **Jeane Freeman, on a fairer Scotland for disabled people**. I remind members that the debate is being relayed in British Sign Language and—I should have warned myself—not to speak too rapidly to allow it to be properly conveyed.

The Minister for Social Security (Jeane Freeman):

I thank the BSL signers who are here and the significant number of disabled people from organisations from throughout Scotland who have joined us in the gallery for the debate.

Last December, we published “A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: Our Delivery Plan to 2021 for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, which is our delivery plan for upholding the principles of the convention. Disabled people are one fifth of our population—one in five. They are husbands, wives, partners, sisters, brothers and friends, but too many of them are unable to contribute to society or live the lives that they wish to live because of the barriers that we allow to stand in their way. Inaccessible facilities and communication are part of the issues that they have to deal with in order to live as everyone else wants to live. However, the bigger issue is the attitude of those of us who are not disabled: our limited expectations of our fellow citizens, our careless ignorance of the barriers that they face and, as we heard only this week, our increasing toleration of the discrimination, abuse and inequality that disabled people face.

To get Scotland to a point at which disabled people have choice, dignity and control to live the life that they choose requires transformational change. The scale and extent of change necessary will take concerted action over this parliamentary session and beyond, but our disability delivery plan, which was co-produced with disabled people, sets us firmly on that road.

For most of us, having a job defines a large part of who we are. It reinforces our feeling of being part of society, gives us some degree of choice and security and affects our quality of life and that of our families. Disabled people are no different. Time and again, they tell me that they want the chance to contribute their talents and skills through meaningful employment. I will focus on that. In doing so, I will say something about the environment in which we all work to give some context to the scale of the task that we are undertaking and, more important, the scale of the challenge that disabled people face every day.

In 14 weeks’ time, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva will examine our track record on disability, along with those of the UK Government and the other devolved Administrations. That is the same committee that concluded that

“there is reliable evidence that the threshold of grave or systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities has been met”

by the UK Government.

Some of our colleagues in the Parliament chose to ignore or belittle the seriousness of that conclusion, but the facts speak for themselves. The harsh reality is that disabled people are under attack from a UK Government that shows little or no respect for their human rights. Tory members in the Parliament and in the UK Government tell us repeatedly that the point of their welfare reforms—which will take £1 billion away from people in Scotland by 2021 on top of the £1.4 billion that has already been removed—is to help people move from benefits into work.

For disabled people—and, indeed, others—the exact opposite is the case, and anyone with any sense could see that. Cuts to support in the transfer from disability living allowance to personal independence payments; cuts of £30 a week to the work-ready element of employment and support allowance; the removal of people’s mobility cars, which is happening at the rate of 800 a week at the moment, even though they are essential to people’s independence and are a practical aid to working; the reduction in the work allowance on universal credit; a freeze on in-work benefits; the abolition of the independent living fund, which we have invested in from the Scottish budget to retain in Scotland; and the imposition of the bedroom tax, in relation to which our mitigation investment shows that 80 per cent of the households that we help have a disabled member—outside of the virtual reality that is inhabited by the Tories, where warm words and robotic soundbites are supposed to substitute for compassionate, caring action, none of those initiatives could possibly be considered to be ones that help people move into work.

Further, the fact that 65 per cent of PIP tribunal appeals, 68 per cent of ESA appeals and 56 per cent of DLA appeals were upheld in one quarter alone shows that it is not only the UK Government’s policies that are wrong but its delivery of them. It gets that delivery so wrong so often that it not only wastes public money but, more critically, leaves disabled people feeling—as one put it—crushed by the UK Government.

To read the full debate, go to

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10947>

For the BSL version, go to http://www.scottishparliament.tv/20170516_debates_bsl

Motion, as amended, agreed to,

That the Parliament recognises the valuable contribution that disabled people make to Scottish society and Scotland as a whole; acknowledges that transformational change is needed in order for disabled people to realise their full potential; agrees that this can be achieved by working with disabled people and their organisations and therefore supports the co-production approach and actions set out in A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: Our Delivery Plan to 2021 for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; recognises the Scottish Government’s commitment to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so that disabled people in Scotland can exercise all of their human rights; notes the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ report in 2016, which found evidence of grave and systematic violations of disabled people’s rights by the UK Government’s welfare reforms; is particularly concerned at the Equalities and Human Rights Commission’s findings that these welfare reforms imposed by the Conservative administration have resulted in a ‘particularly disproportionate, cumulative

impact on the rights to independent living and an adequate standard of living for disabled people', and condemns these cuts, which have caused major harm to the rights of disabled people.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10947>

Housing Support for Young People

S5M-04643, in the name of **Ben Macpherson**, on **United Kingdom Government restrictions for 18 to 21-year-olds accessing financial support for housing**. The debate will be concluded without any question being put.

That the Parliament expresses concern at its understanding that 18 to 21-year-olds in Edinburgh and across Scotland will face restrictions in accessing financial support for housing from 1 April 2017; notes the calls on the UK Government to reconsider what it believes is its ill-conceived and harmful plans that will increase the likelihood of young people being made homeless and undermine the preventative approach to homelessness taken by local and national government in Scotland; believes that these changes are being imposed while discussions continue between the UK and Scottish governments on how the policy can be fully mitigated within existing powers; notes its disappointment with the UK Government's short timescale for change despite assurances that options for Scotland would be considered further, which it believes makes it impossible for full mitigation arrangements to be put in place before this change comes into force; acknowledges the report, *The withdrawal of support for housing costs under Universal Credit for young people: more pain for little gain?*, from the homelessness charity Crisis, and Sheffield Hallam University, which suggests that many of those affected are "likely to be made more vulnerable, less secure and less able to rebuild their relationship with their parents or to keep or find a job than they were before"; notes the research of Heriot-Watt University, which estimates that, if more than 140 young people are made homeless, the policy will cost the UK Government more than the estimated and supposed savings, and believes that not all young people have the option of living with their parents and, for those who may be in a desperate or difficult situation and facing homelessness, housing support can provide stability, security and enable them to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Ben Macpherson (Edinburgh Northern and Leith) (SNP):

I thank the Presiding Officer for securing debate time on the important issue of UK Government restrictions for 18 to 21-year-olds accessing financial support for housing.

How we as a country support our young people is fundamental to the prosperity of our society and the strength of our economy. How we nurture the contributions of younger generations will shape the values of our future, the character of our nation, the strength of our commerce and the prospects of our collective wellbeing. That is why we must seek to support and encourage all our young people in their adolescence and on their journey into adulthood.

The UK Government's decision to abolish access to financial support for housing for 18 to 21-year-olds from 1 April this year is a backward step. It is a detrimental measure that will negatively affect the future of the young people who are affected and the future of our country. Although, at present, the policy applies only to new universal credit claims from

single jobseekers in the five areas of Scotland where universal credit has been fully rolled out, in the years ahead, the policy will affect all new claimants in Scotland as the UK Government rolls out universal credit across our country by April 2018. Very soon, therefore, the policy will negatively affect 18 to 21-year-olds across Scotland, in urban and rural areas.

The Tories envisage that the young adults who are affected by the policy will be able to return to their parental home or enter employment, but that will not always be possible or beneficial. As Shelter Scotland has stated, this Tory policy will remove an important “safety net” for young adults.

Although I acknowledge that the UK legislation includes certain exemptions from the policy, the overall policy intent of the cut to support for young people remains both nonsensical and punitive. The young people that it will affect will undoubtedly be impaired as a result, and there is no guarantee that the exemptions in new paragraphs 4B and 4C of schedule 4 to the Universal Credit Regulations 2013 will be administered accurately or appropriately in practice. What will the costs of assessment be? Will all young people have the necessary wherewithal to seek exemptions and advocacy services? How will vulnerability be proved?

As the homelessness charity Crisis has stated,

“Vulnerability is a dynamic, not a fixed, state. It is affected by many factors which make someone’s life more or less difficult over time. Any system of exemptions is going to find it extremely difficult to keep pace with changes in circumstances: young people may have to move in and out of work or training; their relationships with their parents can fluctuate and be prone to sporadic crises or reconciliations; their emotional state and mental health may be fragile. Tracking all of this over time will not only be difficult—it will also be very expensive to administer.”

To read the rest of the debate, go to

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10950>

Social Security Agency

S50-00979 Ross Thomson (North East Scotland) (Con):

To ask the Scottish Government how it reached its estimate of £150 million annual running costs for the new social security agency.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance):

The executive summary of the outline business case for the social security agency Scotland, which was published on the Scottish Government website on 27 April 2017, contains a full explanation. Further detail is also contained in the main content of the document at chapters 2, 5 and 9, and in technical annexe B.

The Deputy Presiding Officer (Christine Grahame):

I forgot to say my usual mantra calling for short questions and short answers. I accept that that is required.

Ross Thomson:

In the Finance and Constitution Committee, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution conceded that the cost of the delivery of the 11 devolved benefits will be greater than the present cost. When quizzed by my colleague Adam Tomkins on the matter, Derek Mackay was unable to elaborate on the increased cost.

The Deputy Presiding Officer:

Quickly, please.

Ross Thomson:

Has the Scottish Government quantified exactly what the increased cost will be?

Angela Constance:

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution conceded no such thing. Of course, what he did and did not say in that committee is in the Official Report.

The agency's running costs will be around 5 per cent of what we spend on the benefits. The comparable figure for the Department for Work and Pensions is 6.3 per cent. The running costs are estimates from a cost model using activity-based information from the DWP. In a recent statement, Jeane Freeman, the Minister for Social Security, said that the figures would of course be further refined in relation to the nuanced and detailed design of the system, any policy choices that we choose to make and the location of the agency.

The fact that our running costs are estimated at around 5 per cent shows that our figures are credible, that they are compatible with similar United Kingdom Government figures and that they represent value for money.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10950>

Devolved Benefits (Uptake)

S50-00981 Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Green):

To ask the Scottish Government how it will encourage the uptake of all of the devolved benefits to which people might be entitled.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance):

Social security is a human right, and we are determined to support everyone to claim all the benefits to which they are entitled. There is a range of reasons why people do not claim such support. It is disappointing, if not surprising, that the United Kingdom Government has taken no recent action to improve take-up. Ensuring that everyone receives the financial support to which they are entitled is one of the first steps towards putting dignity and respect at the heart of social security in Scotland.

We have made a clear commitment to do all that we can to maximise family income, which is a key method of tackling poverty. As part of that commitment, over the course of this parliamentary session, we will deliver a programme of activity to increase the uptake of social security by encouraging people to exercise their rights and claim the benefits that they are due.

The Deputy Presiding Officer:

Adam Tomkins is next.

Adam Tomkins (Glasgow) (Con):

What assessment has the Government made of the effectiveness of the—

The Deputy Presiding Officer:

I beg your pardon—I am whizzing on. Alison Johnstone is quite right to frown at me. You can see that I am out of practice at this. Alison Johnstone has the next question.

Alison Johnstone:

Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Today, the Scottish Parliament becomes responsible for a range of benefits, including the disability living allowance and the carers allowance. Many of the benefits have complicated interactions with one another, making it even more difficult for people to understand their entitlement. When someone does not—

The Deputy Presiding Officer:

No, no—let us have a question.

Alison Johnstone:

What work is under way to review how the benefits that are being devolved interact with one another, and what steps are being taken to make this complicated system easier to navigate?

Angela Constance:

We know that the current system is complex. It is important for the Scottish Government to help people to navigate their way through that complexity. That includes ensuring that our new social security agency has a duty to maximise incomes. The role of the Scottish Government experience panels is very important, as it will help us to know and evaluate what works in encouraging people to take up the benefits to which they are entitled, whether those are reserved or devolved benefits.

As I said in my closing remarks in yesterday's debate, we will have a round-table discussion with our partners in local government to ensure that the work that we do over the piece in this parliamentary session is consistent and that it is both broad brush and targeted at people who need advice.

Adam Tomkins:

Yesterday, I was confused with Jeremy Balfour and now I have been confused with Alison Johnstone—that is probably progress.

What assessment has the Government made of the effectiveness of the campaign that it ran in March, which involved a week-long series of radio and press adverts to highlight the range of support that is available to claimants?

Angela Constance:

That is a fair question. As the member will know, the campaign in March was just phase 1. It was a broad-brush campaign to support the general take-up of benefits. The press activity

had the potential to reach more than a million people and the radio activity had the potential to reach 1.3 million people. We know that Citizens Advice Scotland has had an increase in casework inquiries and website activity. Work to produce a more detailed, nuanced analysis of the campaign's impact is still going on.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP):

What is the value of the unclaimed devolved benefits that the UK Government has failed to encourage the take-up of?

Angela Constance:

It is quite difficult to get accurate information in relation to benefits that will be devolved. However, for benefits over the piece—for income replacement benefits and child tax benefits in particular—we know that more than half a million individuals and families are not claiming what they are entitled to. That puts an onus on the Scottish Government to do more, but it also begs big questions about what the UK Government is doing to increase the uptake of the benefits that it oversees and about the tax system.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10950>

Access to Elected Office Fund (General Election)

S50-00989 Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (SNP):

To ask the Scottish Government whether there are plans for the access to elected office fund Scotland to be open to disabled people wishing to be nominated for the 2017 general election.

The Minister for Social Security (Jeane Freeman):

Because all aspects of election to the House of Commons are reserved, the Scotland Act 2016 prohibits us from using our fund to assist disabled candidates in the general election. The United Kingdom equivalent of the fund ended in 2015 when the Conservative Party came to power, and repeated calls to reopen it have gone unheeded.

Colin Beattie:

Given the fund's success at the most recent local elections in helping 39 disabled people to take part, 12 of whom were ultimately elected, does the minister agree that such funding levels the playing field between disabled and non-disabled candidates? Will she join me in calling on the UK Government to reopen the equivalent UK fund?

Jeane Freeman:

More important than what Mr Beattie or I might say is the fact that candidates who used our fund to stand in the most recent local council elections and organisations including Inclusion Scotland, which monitors and delivers the fund on our behalf, say that the fund significantly levels the playing field. It is proving to be successful, and we will continue it for the Holyrood elections. As we said yesterday, we are looking at how we might use the fund and its approach in other areas of public life, and I am happy to continue calling on the UK Government to follow our example.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10950>

Benefit Cap

S5O-01032 Ben Macpherson (Edinburgh Northern and Leith) (SNP):
To ask the Scottish Government what impact the United Kingdom Government's benefit cap will have on individuals and families in Scotland.

The Minister for Social Security (Jeane Freeman):

The latest Department for Work and Pensions figures for February 2017 show that more than 3,600 households and 11,000 children in Scotland are currently affected by the new cap. Two thirds of those affected are lone parents, and although the average weekly cut is £59, some households are having to cope with losing £200 each week. The fact that that is increasing hardship and difficulty for already vulnerable households and children is unacceptable, and the UK Government should reverse the policy.

Ben Macpherson:

I welcome the minister's comments and am glad that she is joining me in calling on the UK Government to reverse the cuts—especially given the damaging impact that they are having on communities, including in my constituency and particularly in north Edinburgh, where people and families with children are facing increased hardship and, in some cases, homelessness as a result of problems to do with the benefit cap and other UK Government welfare reforms. What can we do together to put pressure on the UK Government to reverse the cuts?

Jeane Freeman:

As members know from our statements in Parliament, the benefit cap is an issue that we have directly addressed with the current UK Government and will directly address with the incoming UK Government, with respect to the cap's effect and impact on individuals, because the UK Government intends to apply it to devolved benefits. That is something that we strongly believe undercuts the agreement in the Smith commission and fiscal framework.

I am happy to advise Ben Macpherson that we consistently press the UK Government to reverse policies that operate by assessing need and then choosing not to meet it—which is ironic, in a social security system.

This morning, I have come from a helpful discussion with East Lothian Council on the impact of full roll-out of universal credit on the authority and its residents. I am pleased that we are looking to work directly with our newly elected local authorities and with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, as it forms under the new administrations, so that collectively we increase pressure from Scotland on the UK Government to reverse all the changes that it has introduced, and which evidence shows have a direct impact on vulnerable families and children in particular and, of course, on women.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10967>



www.parliament.uk

Westminster is not sitting due to the June General Election.



Copy Deadline for the Next Issue

As always, the deadline is the end of this month.

Please forward your contributions for the next bulletin to: admin@scod.org.uk .

We are happy to publish details about your news, information, events, training courses and conferences. Please send us the **text** you want to be included in the bulletin.

If **you are not a member of SCoD** and would like to advertise an event, training courses or conferences, please contact us at admin@scod.org.uk before you send us the text as there will be an admin charge.

SCoD Disclaimer

Where appropriate, information sources for the bulletin are noted in each article. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of SCoD. We cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of information. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

Information for Inclusion in the SCoD Bulletin

We appreciate the time that you take to send us your training information, events, and news articles for the SCoD bulletin. Sometimes we are not getting enough information, sometimes the information is not clear, and at other times, we have a great article, but no contact details.

In order that we get the information we need to put in the bulletin and you reach your intended audiences, we have put together a template that we would appreciate it if you use to send us information/articles.

We cannot use posters, but we are willing to “share” your posts on our Facebook and re-tweet your “tweets” on our Twitter account. You might have information on your website or YouTube or Vimeo in BSL – please share the links, so that we can.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Organisation Name | |
| Article/News Item/ | Maximum 400 words |
| Important date (s) | |

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| Contact details for the bulletin | |
| Link(s) in social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube | |
| Organisation's Logo (if you want it included) | |