



SCoD Bulletin

Mid April 2017

***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. Thank you.**

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



Membership

We are starting to engage with our members “Oh yes” invoices will be coming out soon!

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 our membership worker, Kirsty, at kirsty@scod.org.uk or telephone 0141 248 2474.

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

Consultations

The consultation on the draft first BSL National Plan has started. This consultation gives you the chance to give your views on whether or not the Scottish Government's National Advisory Group, government departments and national public bodies have got the right content in the plan – goals and how these will be achieved.

There is more about the consultation below on the **Deaf Sector Partnership** website: <http://deafsectorpartnership.net/>

SCoD's "Connect & Capitalise*" Conference 2017

We would like to thank all attendees who came to our 'Connect and Capitalise' Conference on the 9 March 2017 for giving their feedback through Survey Monkey. We will be using this feedback to help us when planning next year's Conference.

The Conference report will be available early summer.

We are starting to 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 Integrities. If you have any ideas or wish to help with sponsorship, please contact claire@scod.org.uk

Disclosure Scotland - SCoD is registered as a counter signatory body with Disclosure Scotland. 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 NAG Update



Scottish Government's Draft British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan is now open for consultation

The Scottish Government's consultation on the Draft British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan will run for the next three months until Wednesday 31 May 2017.

The draft plan covers the Scottish Government and over 50 national public bodies that Scottish Ministers have responsibility for. This BSL National Plan will cover the next six years to 2023.

To find out more, please go to the Scottish Government consultation website:
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/bsl-national-plan/>

Scottish Government Consultation Facebook:
<http://fb.me/bslnationalplan>

Deaf Sector Partnership Website:
www.deafsectorpartnership.net

Deaf Sector Partnership Facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/1470165406637765/

This is a public consultation and anyone can respond to it.

The Scottish Government will accept responses in BSL or in English.

If you have any questions about the BSL NAG or the DSP, please get in touch with Derek Todd, DSP Coordinator by email at admin@deafsectorpartnership.net.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

I wanted to let you know that the EHRC are conducting an Inquiry into housing for disabled people to try to understand the reasons behind a shortage of accessible homes and access to adaptations.



Disabled people's insights and experiences will help influence this inquiry and inform the recommendations and as part of our evidence gathering we have launched a survey for disabled people their families and carers. I was wondering if you would be able to share the survey with your members via your newsletters or social media?

This is the link for the survey for disabled people, their families and carers – it should take about 20 minutes to complete.

All the responses we receive will be treated as **strictly confidential and no individual or organisation will be identified in the final report without their consent.**

If you are part of a network or group, we would be grateful if you would forward this to anyone who you think might be interested. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you have any questions about the Inquiry please feel free to get in touch with Helen Miller

DDI: 0141 228 5958 | Mob: 07888 760856

Electoral Commission - BSL voter information guide - Scottish Council elections 2017

A message from Jonathan Mitchell Communications Officer: "I'm a Communication officer at the Electoral Commission. We are independent from Government and accountable directly to parliament, part of our role is to get out politically impartial messages to potential voters to ensure that they know that they need to be registered if they want to actually vote. This is a link to our website if you require further information" <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

EVENTS

Spotlight On: The Scottish Life Archive Saturday 6 May 2017

It is a free event and will have live subtitles and British Sign Language interpretation.

This will be the first event that NMS have provided alternative interpretation and we are very keen to attract as many people as possible who are Deaf, including people who are Deaf BSL users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing.

We will be conducting evaluation to get feedback on whether this is something people would like to regularly attend at the National Museum of Scotland.

For further information please contact Christine McLean at C.McLean@nms.ac.uk

Outcomes for Children who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired Friday, 23rd June, 2017

This day is a great opportunity to hear from a leading international expert, Professor Greg Leigh.

Greg is s active in research and has published widely on aspects of education of deaf children and related areas. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, Deafness and Education International, and Phonetics and Speech Sciences and is Deputy Director of The Centre for Special Education and Disability Studies at the University of Newcastle. He has served on several Australian Government consultative committees including the New South Wales Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing and the National Neonatal Hearing Screening Working Party. He is currently Chairman of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee. He is a former National President of the Education Commission for the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and is Chair of the International Steering Committees of both the Asia-Pacific Congress on Deafness (APCD) and the International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED).

This day will cover aspects from Greg's research interests:

- Newborn Hearing Screening - implementation and standards for delivery.
- The impact of earlier identification of hearing loss on infant development.
- Early psychosocial development of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Communications access by deaf and hearing impaired children and adults (captions and related media accessibility).

- Teachers' use of simultaneous communication.
- Literacy development in deaf children and adults.

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

Scottish Sensory Centre / Adept

Adept is the Association of Deaf Education Professionals and Trainees

International Conference at the University of Edinburgh:

Aiming higher for deaf students - What works? What could work?

Date: June 24th 2017, 10 am – 5 pm

Paterson's Land, University of Edinburgh,

EH8 8AQ

Delegate fee £50



Key note speakers:

Professor Greg Leigh, University of Newcastle, Australia, will explore issues of deaf children and young people's attainment and factors in their school success.

Dr. Audrey Cameron, University of Edinburgh, will examine the effects and implications of the British Sign Language Glossary of curriculum terms in the policy context of the BSL (Scotland) Act.

This conference marks the end of a 10-year period in Scottish deaf education which has included the passing of an historic piece of legislation in 2015, the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act, the introduction of a new school curriculum, and the growth of a curriculum resource for signing deaf students, the BSL Glossary of technical terms, hosted at the Scottish Sensory Centre. These developments run concurrently with very early identification of deafness through newborn screening, early cochlear implantation, and much better spoken language outcomes for many deaf children in the early years. The potential for improvements in outcomes for deaf children has never been clearer.

However, other research from Scotland in this period has shown the very variable outcomes of all deaf children, regardless of the level of deafness.

On this one-day conference we will explore the theme of raising achievement for deaf students, not focusing exclusively on academic achievements. We welcome papers which consider ways in which deaf students could gain better access to the curriculum and assessment, how they could be more involved in decision making, and how creativity in school and beyond can contribute to their success.

The conference is for anyone interested in deaf education. We expect that it will be attended by teachers, support staff, interpreters, members of d/Deaf communities, parents of deaf children, third sector professionals and academics. The conference fee is £50.

The conference will be fully accessible to a deaf and hearing audience with BSL/English interpreters and speech to text reporters.

There will be stalls from organisations, posters about projects and a lunch included in the conference price of £50 per delegate. Cheques to be made payable to the University of Edinburgh. See booking form downloadable from conference website.

Contact for conference bookings:
Ruth Simpson: sscworkshops@ed.ac.uk

Contact for booking a stall for your organisation:
Kellie Mote
kellie.mote@gmail.com
<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/adeptconference.html>

Booking form can be downloaded from here

@Scottishsensory

Deaf Links their Tartan Glamour Ball Saturday 26th August 2017



Join us in sparkling reception, 3 course meal, dancing, music & raffle, while raising vital funds for 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

BDA SCOTLAND EVENT – UNIVERSITY TOUR

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEAF ACTION AND EDINBRUGH
UNIVERSITY



Are you 16 – 20?

Interested in University?

Date: Friday 28th April 2017
Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Meet at 9.30am at Student Disability Service

University of Edinburgh,

The Main Library Building,

George Square, Edinburgh, EH 8 9LJ

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

Contact Charlene Dolan:

Text/SMS: 07795822102

Email: transitionscot.drp@bda.org.uk

ooVoo: charlenedolan

Lunch will be provided on the day.

Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BritishDeafAssociation/videos/1432391106823206/>

INVITATION TO NEXT NORTH LANARKSHIRE THIRD SECTOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE NETWORK MEETINGS



Following successful initial launch and development activity in 2016, third sector organisations with an interest in the fields of reducing reoffending and victim engagement are invited by Chair organisations Sacro and Victim Support Scotland respectively to attend one (or both if appropriate) of the next North Lanarkshire Third Sector Community Justice Network meetings, as detailed below:

NORTH LANARKSHIRE THIRD SECTOR REDUCING REOFFENDING NETWORK MEETING (invitation from Sacro)

Thursday 20 April 2017 | 10.00am-12noon | One Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre, 35 Wellwynd, Airdrie, ML6 0BN

NORTH LANARKSHIRE THIRD SECTOR VICTIM SERVICES AND ENGAGERS NETWORK MEETING (invitation from Victim Support Scotland)

Thursday 20 April 2017 | 1.00pm-3.00pm | One Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre, 35 Wellwynd, Airdrie, ML6 0BN

The purpose of the Networks are to to progress third sector contributions to and activity within North Lanarkshire Community Justice Partnership. The Community Justice Partnership was established by North Lanarkshire Partnership following the introduction of The Community Justice (Scotland) Bill 2015, and aims to provide

strategic direction for Community Justice interventions in the local area. The Partnership recognises that the third sector makes a significant contribution to Community Justice across North Lanarkshire, and as such is keen to ensure that third sector organisations are suitably connected to strategic developments through participation in the Third Sector Community Justice Networks.

A Networking lunch will take place from 12noon-1.00pm on the day for members of both Networks to participate in. Reports from the last Network meetings held on Wednesday 7 December 2016 are attached for your information. **To confirm attendance at either Network meeting** (if you have not already received invitation and done so), please contact Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on **01236 748011** or e-mail craig.russell@vanl.co.uk.

**British Deaf Association Scotland, Deaf Action and
Edinburgh University
Friday 28 April 2017 from 10a.m to 2p.m**



Are you Deaf, age 16 – 20? Interested in University? Book a place on a tour of Edinburgh University. This is an opportunity to experience the transition to university. BSL/English interpreters provided. Booking is essential as places are limited. Lunch is provided.

Meet at 9.30a.m. at the Student Disability Service, University of Edinburgh, The Main Library Building, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ.

For more information please contact Charlene Dolan at Transitionscot.drp@bda.org.uk or text 07795 822102. Skype/ooVoo charlenedolan

**BSL Yoga Workshop Glasgow
Saturday 17 June 2017 – 10am – 2pm**

The Courtyard Studio, Merchant City Yoga, 49 Virginia Street, Glasgow, G1 1TS

- 4 hours of yoga guidance in British Sign Language with a fully qualified yoga teacher
- Introduction to pranayama (yogic breathing)
- Suitable for all levels of flexibility and experience
- Both men and women welcome

To book email: bslyogayork@gmail.com or find us on facebook: [@bslyogayork](https://www.facebook.com/bslyogayork)

CONSULTATIONS

The Scottish Health Council has commissioned a short scoping exercise of the rationale, appeal and feasibility of the establishment of a pan-Scotland collaborative approach to young people's participation in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The scoping work will help the Scottish Health Council to inform the development of the Out Voice vision for young people across Scotland, see http://www.scottishhealthcouncil.org/patient_public_participation/our_voice/our_voice.aspx

This short exploratory exercise is taking place between January and March 2017, and includes this short survey of stakeholder views about the rationale, appeal and feasibility of the establishment of a pan-Scotland collaborative approach to young people's participation in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. There are two version of the survey:

For adults – targeted to practitioners – working with and for children and young people. Please click on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SHCYPparticipation>

For young people: please click on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SHCYPparticipationYOUNGPEOPLE>

The survey will close on Friday 24th March so that the findings can be presented at Scottish Health Council's event: "Our Voice, Transforming How We Engage with Young People".

If you would like any information about this event, please email Keir McKechnie, Senior Project Officer, Strengthening the Voices of Children and Young People Project, Scottish Health Council Keir.McKechnie@scottishhealthcouncil.org Please remember that this is an initial short scoping exercise, and not a full consultation.

TRAINING

Understanding Integration Joint Boards



In 2016, 31 Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) were established. These new bodies, working in the same areas as Councils, are now responsible for the planning and provision of all adult health and social care services.

The boards will be responsible for spending £8.5bn of the £13bn spent on health and social care in Scotland

These new boards are responsible for the planning, commissioning and delivery of joint sensory impairment services including deaf services. In turn, they will have significant impact in the shaping of priorities. The new boards provide a real opportunity to raise the profile of deaf issues, and in particular, focus on a rights-based approach when engaging with IJBs.

In order to raise awareness and understanding of the new IJBs, Brian Cavanagh will deliver a masterclass on "Integration Joint Boards: How to influence; How to make an impact".

The masterclass will:

- Provide the policy context and objectives behind the new Integration Joint Boards [IJBs]
- Explain their powers, how they will operate and make decisions.
- Identify: the key decision makers on the day; the key roles/people to target; the right messages to deliver; and the correct positioning for SCoD members to adopt.
- Explore how SCoD members can engage effectively and build on existing experience and relationships
- Highlight where SCoD members can make the most impact and get most leverage.

On the day we will look at the opportunities and show you how to make them work. Outline how to focus on the human rights aspects for deaf people in relation to IJBs.

When: Friday 9th June 2017 at 12noon – 4.00 pm

Where: Venue TBC – Glasgow city centre.

To Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-integration-joint-boards-tickets-33340555499>

For further information or if you require language communication support or have access requirements please indicate this at time of booking, or contact admin@scod.org.uk

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



A two-day workshop to develop freelance interpreters' business, professional and personal skills in providing interpreting in an ever changing world. Both workshops have been refreshed for 2017. They are delivered by experienced interpreter

practitioners in a positive, frank manner and include presentations, discussions, practical exercises, resources and business tools, and Q&A sessions.

Whether you are new to the profession or an experienced freelance interpreter the workshops are a '101' back to basics programme dealing with aspects of establishing, promoting and growing your interpreting business for the long term.

29th April 2017 we start with “The Effective Freelancer...”

A workshop focussed on your development as a business.

We start by looking at our individual approaches to business, including our motivation and attitude to risk-taking, building on that to explore a variety of popular business models, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

We then take a practical look at how to run our business efficiently; considering back office functions, streamlining of administration, realistic budgeting, dealing with ATW, and utilising technology. We'll also cover the A B C of how to develop your own website.

Our last session of the day focusses on your negotiation skills, client care, developing your brand, networking and planning for growth.

This workshop is run by Ben Phillips.

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

SSC **Outcomes for Children who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired** **Friday, 23rd June, 2017**

This day is a great opportunity to hear from a leading international expert, Professor Greg Leigh.

Greg is active in research and has published widely on aspects of education of deaf children and related areas. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, Deafness and Education International, and Phonetics and Speech Sciences and is Deputy Director of The Centre for Special Education and Disability Studies at the University of Newcastle. He has served on several Australian Government consultative committees including the New South Wales Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing and the National Neonatal Hearing Screening Working Party. He is currently Chairman of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee. He is a former National President of the Education Commission for the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and is Chair of the International Steering Committees of both the Asia-Pacific Congress on Deafness (APCD) and the International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED).

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- Communications access by deaf and hearing impaired children and adults (captions and related media accessibility).
- Teachers' use of simultaneous communication.
- Literacy development in deaf children and adults.

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

Centre for Good Relations

Want to take a business unusual approach to mediation?



Join our four-day course on Civic Mediation – A Methodology for Conflict Transformation. Theory and Practice.

When? Monday 24th April – Thursday 27th April 2017.

Where? The Bay Hotel, Burntisland Road, Kinghorn, Fife, KY3 9YE.

What is Civic Mediation? Civic mediation uses mediative processes to seek constructive changes to societal challenges. It values the role of building relationships within a system to bring about effective change, and works to transform conflict to achieve long-term positive outcomes.

What will the course cover? Personal and group responses to conflict; theories, tools and approaches for analysing multi-party conflicts; developing strategies to manage and transform complex conflicted situations. It will provide case studies where civic mediation has been applied in community resilience and peace-building, effective policy development, and environmental conflicts.

Who should attend? We are inviting participants from across the UK and beyond as part of Centre for Good Relations strategy to develop civic mediation practice. We'd welcome participants who would be interested to explore how we can work together to deliver our strategy.

If you are:

- Mediators or facilitators who would like to develop your skills to work with complex multi stakeholder relationships in a range of settings.
- Someone who wishes to build their understanding of how the quality of relationships impact on policy change.
- Interested in moving away from a traditional mediation toolbox and want to try something new.
- Someone who would like to become part of a network to embed civic mediation as a way of transforming conflict in our society.

Then this course is for you.

Cost: £500 for the full four days including all training materials, lunch and refreshments.

For further information and to register your interest, please contact Abdul Rahim at Centre for Good Relations by email: abdul@centreforgoodrelations.com . Or Tel: 07960 683328

VACANCIES



NHS



NHS Fife is responsible for protecting and improving the health of the 368,000 population of Fife and is committed to building on and improving these services with the involvement and support of the public and their partners. NHS Fife is looking for one new member to join its Board.

NHS Lothian is responsible for protecting and improving the health of the 850,000 population across Lothian and works closely with local authorities and third sector partners in providing an integrated system of community-based health and social care. NHS Lothian is looking for three new members to join its Board.

Attached for your information is a copy of the applicant information pack for the Member appointments to the Fife and Lothian NHS Boards

Please find full details via our website: <http://bit.ly/2mVgQV0>

Deaf Action Chief Executive Officer Vacancy



We are looking for someone who has experience or understanding of deafness with the vision and skills to lead the organisation through its next stage of development, and ensure that its strategic and operational objectives are achieved in a changing environment.

You will have a proven record of senior management in a relevant sector, having a sound understanding of good governance, experience in finance, human resources, risk management and the ability to work effectively with a non-exec board. You will be a confident and engaging communicator with a record of building and maintaining strategic relationships with key external stakeholders to ensure people with sensory needs play a major role in policy and service development. You will also have previous involvement in fundraising, commercial income generation and business development.

Salary in the region of £47,000 and £52,000 plus pension

Closing date: noon on 28th April 2017

Interview dates: 25th and 26th May 2017 in Edinburgh

For further information contact: Julie McGrath

Administration Support Worker

julie.mcgrath@deafaction.org

0131 556 3128

Website: <http://www.deafaction.org.uk/work-with-us/chief-executive-officer-vacancy/>

Message on behalf of Dr Andy Park, Senior Economist, Communities Analysis Division, Scottish Government

Dear colleague

We are now five weeks into our recruitment drive for the [Experience Panels](#), and are delighted to report that over 1000 people have registered already. Your support in promoting the opportunity across your networks, and supporting your members to register, has been invaluable.

As you know we are committed to making the Panels accessible, and hope that our efforts to make the registration process simple, straightforward and supported have demonstrated that we have:

- followed accessibility guidance and the advice of inclusive communications experts;
- developed and tested materials with people with direct experience of the benefits system;
- made sure it's free to register;
- promoted the BSL line, textphone, SMS and translation services, and committed to making alternative formats available on request (Easy Read versions of the recruitment material will be available soon).

Recruitment is, of course, only the first step. Alongside securing the diversity and numbers of volunteers, a focus of our early efforts is around the communication and support needs of our panel members to make sure they stay engaged and can participate fully. As part of the 'About You' phase of the research which follows next, we will learn more about the volunteers, their experiences, what they want to work on and what will enable that. This is an area where we must learn from you: your organisations have been doing this for longer than we have, and we need to work with you to tap into your expertise.

The Experience Panels are just one of the ways that we will secure expert input in shaping the nature and structure of the new social security Agency. There is an ongoing critical role for stakeholder organisations. We have set up a series of benefit-specific advisory groups, involving stakeholders, to support policy development, for example an Expert Advisory Group on Disability and Carers'

Benefits that will provide Ministers with independent, expert guidance. What else do we need to think about?

When registration closes on 12 May, we will be back in touch to arrange to meet those who are interested, to explore how we work together and discuss the best route for your organisation to contribute to and complement the work of the Experience Panels.

We will of course keep you informed as the recruitment continues.

Set yourself up for a bright future with an apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a great way to get ahead in your career, giving you the chance to work, learn and earn to gain industry-recognised qualifications.

There are more than 25,500 new Modern Apprenticeship opportunities across Scotland each year and with over 80 different types available in hundreds of jobs, there's bound to be one for you.

From financial services and healthcare to construction and IT, each apprenticeship is developed by industry to suit their needs.

This means that apprentices can build valuable work experience from day-one and gain an accredited qualification which is recognised by industry.

We aim to ensure everyone has the same access to apprenticeship opportunities. No matter your background, you can get your career off to a great start across a wide range of jobs with an apprenticeship, whether you begin yours at school or once you have left.

Find out what it's really like to do an apprenticeship from [Stewart](#) who is profoundly deaf.

Learn more about apprenticeships and view employers apprenticeship opportunities at dedicated website www.apprenticeships.scot
The Scottish Apprenticeship Awards 2017 have launched, with a deadline for entries of Wednesday 28 June.

For any information please contact Susan Hay, External Communications Executive, Skills Development Scotland – susan.hay@sds.co.uk / 0141 285 6171

Link within copy to Stewart's case study - <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/shared-content/case-studies/stewart/>

**Play Scotland Vacancies
Trainer/Assessors Required**



There is an exciting opportunity to deliver a new qualification which has been designed specifically with a view to support organisations/local authorities interested in analysing the play sufficiency of their services. The development of the qualification was driven by the Scottish Government Play Strategy, which aims to promote and improve play and play spaces for children and young people in Scotland.

The PDA: Strategic Planning for Play, is a CPD qualification developed by a partnership of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), Scottish Government, Play Scotland, SkillsActive and Inspiring Scotland.

The key outcomes of the Scottish Play Certificate are:

- Play and Play Spaces
- Play, policy and community
- Evaluating and analysing the impact of play on children and young people
- Evaluating Play Sufficiency

As the qualification is to be delivered in local authorities across Scotland, we are seeking to employ either sessional trainers/assessors or self employed trainers/assessors to deliver the qualification locally.

Applicants should be motivated, able to work on their own initiative, with a very good knowledge of the importance of play and the playwork principles, and experience in consulting with children and young people. Applicants should have a relevant qualification in play, childhood studies or community work at SCQF Level 8 or above, and have an assessor qualification.

Please send your CV in the first instance to – Cherie Morgan at cheriemorgan@playscotland.org

Advertisement of Members to HIS and NSS



Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is a national improvement organisation that works with local communities, people who need support and the people who provide support to improve health and social care across Scotland. HIS supports the health and social care system to design and provide high quality, sustainable and compassionate care for the people of Scotland. Strong relationships and partnership

working with other organisations are central to helping us to deliver improvement. HIS is looking for one new member to join its Board.

NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) is a public sector organisation that has been providing services to NHSScotland for over 40 years. It is a vital part of NHSScotland, providing a range of specialist support services that enable the NHS Boards to focus their efforts in delivering health improvement and care. We also offer our expertise and national scale shared services more widely across the public sector in support of public service reform and, in particular, the integration of health and social care.

Attached for your information is a copy of the advert and applicant information pack for the Members appointment to the Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHS National Services Scotland Boards.

Please find full details via our website: <http://bit.ly/2n6BaTb>

CINEMA/THEATRE



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

This month, Visible Cinema is delighted to present the darkly comic debut feature from Sightseers Alice Lowe, *Prevenge* followed by a Q&A with actor Kate Dickie* on Wednesday 19 April.

UPCOMING AUDIO DESCRIBED SCREENINGS

Free Fire

Fri 31 March - Thu 13 April
(see GFT website listing [Free Fire](#) for details)

Access Film Club: The Eagle Huntress

Tues 11 April (18.00)
(see GFT website listing [The Eagle Huntress](#) for details)

Visible Cinema: Prevenge

Wed 19 April (17.50)
(see GFT website listing [Prevenge](#) for details)

Lady Macbeth

Fri 28 April - Mon 1 May
(see GFT website listing [Lady Macbeth](#) for details)

Take 2: Smurfs: The Lost Village (11.30)

Sat 29 April
(see GFT website listing [Smurfs: The Lost Village](#) for details)

UPCOMING CAPTIONED SCREENINGS

Visible Cinema: Prevenge

Wed 19 April (17.50)

(see GFT website listing [Prevenge](#) for details)

Lady Macbeth

Sat 29 April (16.35)

Mon 1st May (18.40)

(see GFT website listing [Lady Macbeth](#) for details)

Take 2: Smurfs: The Lost Village

Sat 29 April (11.30)

(see GFT website listing [Smurfs: The Lost Village](#) for details)

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, MOTIONS AND DEBATES



BBC Alba (Funding)

S5O-00705 Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making in securing additional funding for BBC Alba.

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop):

The Scottish Government has made strong, clear and consistent representations to the BBC to secure additional funding for BBC Alba. On 22 February, the BBC announced that it will cover the £1.2 million cost of Gaelic programmes that BBC Alba has funded to date, which will release welcome funds for BBC Alba. Separately, the BBC will support weekend news coverage. We look forward to receiving further details from the BBC to understand more fully what the implications and benefits of the recent announcement will be. We will continue to press the BBC to deliver more for Gaelic broadcasting, so that we move towards parity with the resources that are afforded to S4C.

Angus MacDonald:

I join the cabinet secretary in welcoming the extra £1.2 million for BBC Alba. That said, the cabinet secretary might be aware of concerns in the Gaelic community following last week's announcement that the creation of the new channel could have a

detrimental impact on funding for BBC Alba. With the commitment that was given last week to up to 7.2 hours of fresh in-house programming for BBC Alba per week, the BBC investment that was announced falls well short of what BBC Alba needs to sustain its historic success and continue to be an effective contributor to the revitalisation of Gaelic.

The cabinet secretary has given a commitment to impress upon the BBC the need for an in-house contribution of 10 hours per week and I urge her to continue to do that.

Fiona Hyslop:

The case for BBC Alba is well made. Indeed, it has been instructional in showing how BBC programme making can help to develop and support the creative industries. We will have a debate later today on that very matter. However, it is essential that an in-house contribution of 10 hours per week is secured for BBC Alba. That is not what has been secured to date and we will continue to support it and make the case for it.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10815>

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (Disabled Access)

S50-00714 Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making with the implementation of section 179 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 regarding disabled access.

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson):

Section 179 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 requires individuals applying for a liquor premises licence to provide a disability access and facilities statement along with their application. The statement is to contain information about disabled access to the premises and facilities, and any other provision available to aid the use of the premises by disabled people. Failure to provide a statement is not a ground for refusing an application, but it means that the premises application would be incomplete and could not be considered by the licensing board.

The provision does not interfere with the existing duty under equality law to make reasonable adjustments to make sure that a disabled person can use a service as close as it is reasonably possible to get to the standard that is usually offered to non-disabled people. Section 179 cannot be commenced in isolation; it is also necessary to update secondary legislation to provide the necessary statutory forms, alongside providing guidance to applicants. We intend to complete that work within the remainder of this year.

Daniel Johnson:

In 2010, an amendment to the legislation was passed, with cross-party support, following “Barred!”, which was a campaign run by Mark Cooper in association with Capability Scotland. The amendment was to ensure that licensed premises must provide the information that the cabinet secretary has outlined. Unfortunately, the Government has yet to commence the provision. It has stated that it would do so by

the end of this session of Parliament, which would obviously mean a delay of more than a decade, so I welcome the cabinet secretary's commitment today. Will he act without delay and ensure that the provision is commenced this year? Does he agree with me that, for many disabled people, a beer delayed is a beer denied?

Michael Matheson:

It is important to recognise that, although there was cross-party support for the amendment, the provision does not require a licence holder to commit to any amendments or alterations to their premises; rather, the provision is about the factual information that must be provided at the time when an application for a liquor licence is being made.

As Daniel Johnson will recognise, a significant amount of new regulations on licensed premises have been introduced, including on licensing for scrap metal companies and air weapons. We have tried to take forward the legislation on a phased basis, in order to make sure that we manage the process for those who require to have a licence or to apply for a licence. There are secondary legislation issues accompanying the provision; we will seek to make progress on it over this year. I will try to make sure that the work is taken forward as early as possible. At this stage, I cannot give the member a final date on when the process will be completed.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10815>

Social Housing (Older People)

S5F-00950 Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (SNP): To ask the First Minister what measures the Scottish Government will take to ensure that there is appropriate social housing to meet the requirements of disabled, vulnerable and frail older people.

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):

We are committed to expanding social housing in communities across Scotland, which is why 35,000 of our 50,000 affordable homes target will be for social rent. Good social housing is important for disabled, vulnerable and frail older people, and the homes that are delivered through the programme will match councils' local housing strategies.

We will shortly publish our refreshed "Age, Home and Community" strategy. As well as improving access to suitable housing, it will take account of changing needs and demographics and help to address issues of isolation that older people can face.

Christine Grahame:

Although the integration of healthcare and social care to help people to stay at home instead of in hospital, is welcome, it hits the buffers if appropriate housing is in short supply. Notwithstanding what the First Minister has just said, is she aware of a recent report that highlights the dearth of sheltered and very sheltered housing, especially for frail elderly people, and calls for a commission to consider and report

on long-term funding and provision of supported accommodation? Will the First Minister commit to such a commission?

The First Minister:

Yes, indeed. I think it important not only that we have that strategic approach in place, but that we commit to sustainable funding. We share the housing sector's concerns about the United Kingdom Government's changes to funding for supported accommodation, which are part of a broader approach to welfare cuts that is having a considerable impact on people across the country. We will carefully consider the recently published report on effective supply of supported housing and look at its recommendations, which include the setting up of a commission to ensure that older people can access the housing and support that they need. We are also absolutely committed to working with the sector to protect the most vulnerable people and ensure that supported accommodation is put on a sustainable and secure financial footing.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10818>

Public Petitions Committee

Concessionary Transport (Carers) (PE1632)

The Convener:

The second new petition that we will consider is **PE1632**, by Amanda Macdonald, on concessionary transport for carers. Members have a note by the clerk and a Scottish Parliament information centre briefing.

The petition calls for free concessionary transport for carers, and the petitioner has highlighted the financial difficulties that many carers face, the limits that are placed on their social lives, and the impact that that has on mental health.

Members will see from the SPICe briefing that it is estimated that in Scotland there are 759,000 adult carers aged 16 and over and 29,000 carers under the age of 16. The SPICe briefing also explains that the existing concessionary travel scheme is available to people aged 60 and over, and to disabled people.

There is, of course, provision for so-called companion cards, which eligible companions can use when they assist a person who is eligible for concessionary travel. Those cards can be used for journeys that commence and terminate at the same locations that the eligible person who is being assisted will be at.

Do members have any comments or suggestions for action to take on the petition?

Brian Whittle:

Last year, I attended a young carer's event that included a round-table discussion at which it was highlighted that young carers have to pay out of their own pocket while they are working for the person who is being cared for—for example, if they have to get on a bus to go and collect a prescription. It seems to me that it would be a logical, and not costly, step, in those circumstances, to allow them free transport. I understand that it would be really difficult to apply that across the whole of the care system.

The Convener:

We know that some carers have to give up work in order to look after the person whom they care for, so their financial and emotional wellbeing is affected by being a carer. We also know that some young people take on caring roles. Would there be an issue about identification of those carers?

Brian Whittle:

I think that there would be, but that does not negate the real-life problems for people in that situation. Identification should not prevent our looking at the problem, especially in the case of young carers. If someone who is on welfare payments has to pay out a few pounds here and there every time they have to go out and pick up a prescription or accompany the person whom they care for, that will have an impact. That should not happen.

To read the full debate, go to

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10824>

Social Security Committee**Social Security Legislation****The Convener (Sandra White):**

Good morning, and welcome to the fourth meeting in 2017 of the Social Security Committee. I remind everyone to turn off their mobile phones, as they interfere with the recording system.

The main agenda item today is an **update** from Jeane Freeman, Minister for Social Security, on **forthcoming legislation on social security**. Welcome, minister, and thank you for coming along to update us. The accompanying Scottish Government officials are David Signorini, head of communities' analytical services, and Chris Boyland, legislation and delivery team leader. I believe that you want to make an opening statement, minister.

The Minister for Social Security (Jeane Freeman):

Thank you, convener. I am grateful for the opportunity to come back to the committee and provide this update. I would like to start with the issues that were raised around the statement that I made to the chamber last week, when I highlighted areas of disagreement in our negotiations with the United Kingdom Government.

The first of those concerns housing benefits for 18 to 21-year-olds. Since June 2016, at both official and ministerial level, we have been pursuing a means by which both Governments could meet their specific objectives. As members will recall, the UK Government's objective is to remove eligibility to housing benefit for 18 to 21-year-olds, and ours is to retain that eligibility. Our solution is to use section 11(4) of the Welfare Reform Act 2012, which allows the Department for Work and Pensions to vary the calculation of the housing element of universal credit, rather than section 11(5), which allows the DWP to change eligibility and is the section that it intends to use and on which it has produced draft regulations. The reason for our position is that, under the Scotland Act 2016, the Scottish Ministers have no power to restore eligibility, but we do have powers under section 11(4) of the 2012 act. I am afraid that not only would the UK Government not consider our approach, but it has also

refused so far to commit to our alternative solution, which is to add 18 to 21-year-olds living in Scotland to what is already a long list of exceptions that it has made to its own policy.

The second area of disagreement concerns the UK Government's intention to apply its benefit cap to individuals who are considered to have income above the benefit cap level as a result of our abolition of the bedroom tax at source—members will recall that that abolition is a clear manifesto commitment for the Scottish Government. Our position is very clear and is well founded on the Smith commission, the fiscal framework and the enduring settlement, which all state explicitly, as at paragraph 89 of the fiscal framework,

“that any new benefits or discretionary payments introduced by the Scottish Government must provide additional income for a recipient and not result in an automatic offsetting reduction by the UK government in their entitlement elsewhere in the UK benefits system.”

Angela Constance and I have both raised those issues on a number of occasions, in addition to the work of our officials. We have raised them at ministerial level with Caroline Nokes, Damian Hinds and David Mundell, in the hope that agreement could be reached. We finally raised them at last week's joint ministerial working group—the appropriate place and process—where we specifically challenged both David Mundell and Damian Hinds to explain to us why the DWP could not simply flag people in Scotland for whom the bedroom tax was abolished and disapply the UK Government's benefit cap from their universal credit award. The answer remains no, although, as I said in the chamber last week, we still do not have a clear explanation as to why not.

The solution that is being offered to us is for the Scottish Government to provide any capped individuals with a discretionary housing payment equal to the amount of universal credit that they have lost.

I am very clear that we cannot agree to that. It would involve additional DHP expenditure by the Scottish Government and would, in effect, result in our paying twice to abolish the bedroom tax because we would, of course, also need to pay the DWP for the bedroom tax income that it had not received as a consequence of our abolishing the bedroom tax.

A cumbersome approach has been suggested. It relies on the individual self-identifying at a local authority office after the cap has been applied, and it does not support the person-centred social security system that we intend to see. What we have proposed instead is simple and straightforward, and would be a better use of public funds.

To read the rest of the debate, go to <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10823>

Schools (Support Staff)

S5O-00736 Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Con): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that schools have adequate numbers of support staff.

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

It is for education authorities to ensure that schools have adequate numbers of support staff. Education authorities will take resourcing decisions based on their commitments, including statutory duties under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, and local circumstances and priorities.

Miles Briggs:

I am sure that the cabinet secretary will acknowledge that support staff play a vital role in our schools in helping teachers to support pupils with additional needs. Under the watch of this Government and the Scottish National Party-Labour Party-run City of Edinburgh Council, the number of support staff in Edinburgh's secondary schools has declined by almost 20 per cent since 2010, which is one of the largest drops in Scotland. How does the cabinet secretary reconcile that record with the Scottish Government's desire to close the attainment gap?

John Swinney:

Around the country, the number of staff who support pupils with additional support needs was 12,572 in 2008 and, in 2016, it was 12,883. That demonstrates the ability of local authorities around the country to make decisions, because they have those powers. That is as it should be.

What I find quite strange about Miles Briggs's question is that, at the weekend, his party leader called for more powers to be given to local authorities. Miles Briggs is complaining about local authorities exercising the powers that they currently—

Miles Briggs:

What is the cabinet secretary doing about it?

John Swinney:

I am respecting local authorities' decisions. It is up to local authorities to take decisions within the resources that are available to them. Mr Briggs cannot have it both ways—he cannot argue for more powers for local authorities, then complain when they exercise those powers and make the choices that they want to make.

Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (SNP):

I remind members that I am the parliamentary liaison officer to the cabinet secretary. **What are the cabinet secretary and Scottish ministers doing to give effect to the measures in the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015, including supporting children with a hearing impairment in their education?**

John Swinney:

The Scottish Government is taking forward a number of measures to support individuals who are British Sign Language users. We were the first Government to introduce BSL legislation and, last week, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on the first British Sign Language national plan. The consultation, which will run until 31 May 2017, will actively seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The draft plan includes the actions that the Scottish Government—and

the national public bodies for which Scottish ministers have responsibility—proposes to undertake to support the promotion of British Sign Language.

We are committed to supporting children with a hearing impairment to reach their full potential. My officials are working with key stakeholders to identify and develop the actions that are needed to respond to the Education and Skills Committee inquiry into the attainment of pupils with sensory impairments. I understand that the development of the action plan is at an advanced stage and will be finalised shortly.

All those actions are based on the very positive initiative that was taken by Mr Griffin in the previous parliamentary session to advance legislation on BSL.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Lab):

Given the importance of the assessment of need in securing additional help through support staff for a child, the cabinet secretary will be aware that 28 per cent of pupils from the most disadvantaged backgrounds have been assessed as having additional support needs in comparison with 16 per cent of pupils from the least disadvantaged backgrounds, according to his Government's figures for 2015. Despite that, only 1.3 per cent of pupils from the most disadvantaged backgrounds have a co-ordinated support plan in comparison with 2 per cent of pupils from the least disadvantaged backgrounds.

Why does that inequality in support exist? What action will the cabinet secretary take to ensure that young people secure the support that they need to sustain their place in mainstream education? Does he recognise the importance of the level of support staff for young people in disadvantaged areas who already face significant barriers to learning?

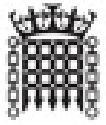
John Swinney:

Every young person who should have a co-ordinated support plan must have a co-ordinated support plan, regardless of their background. The commitment that we make with regard to our work to get it right for every child means that, whatever the circumstances of the young person, they should have the assistance that they require. Fundamentally, that issue is handled by local authorities in exercising their statutory duty. We had a discussion at the Education and Skills Committee this morning about some of those questions and whether there are enough requirements and obligations to ensure that that is the case. I undertook to take that issue away and to consider it further.

My commitment, which is on the record, is that regardless of a child's circumstances any child who requires a co-ordinated support plan should have one. If we need to provide support to families from deprived backgrounds to secure the support to which their child has an entitlement, the Government will give consideration to that issue.

On the question of support for young people who have additional needs, the way in which the Government is taking forward pupil equity funding puts resources into schools to enable them to take decisions on many of these questions.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10828>



Petition: Make British Sign Language part of the National Curriculum.

There are currently 11 million people within the United Kingdom with hearing loss. Some of these profoundly deaf - yet British Sign Language has still not been made a part of the national curriculum. I urge you all to sign this and make BSL a mandatory subject in schools.

Government responded

British Sign Language was recognised as a language in its own right by the government in 2003. Whilst it is not a mandatory part of the curriculum, schools are free to teach it if they choose to do so.

The teaching of a foreign language is statutory at key stages 2 and 3 for pupils in maintained schools.

Teaching of one modern foreign language has always been a statutory requirement of the national curriculum at key stage 3, and schools can teach any modern foreign language to meet this requirement. From September 2014, maintained primary schools must teach a modern or ancient foreign language to pupils at key stage 2.

The government accepts that British Sign Language (BSL) can be a beneficial subject that schools might choose to teach in addition to foreign languages. However, the national curriculum programmes of study for languages contain a number of requirements that could not be met through BSL; for example at key stage 2 the requirement to describe people, places, things and actions in writing. A maintained school would therefore be unable to meet the curriculum requirement solely by teaching BSL.

Department for Education

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/178095>

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