SCoD’s “Connect & Capitalise†” Conference

Our third SCoD Conference, ‘Connect & Capitalise’ will take place on Thursday 9th March 2017 in Glasgow Doubletree Hilton.

The Minister for Mental Health, Maureen Watt MSP, will be our first keynote speaker at the Conference. Yvonne Strachan CBE Head of Human Rights and Equality at the Scottish Government and Martyn Evans, the Chief Executive of the Carnegie Trust UK will also be speaking on the day.
There will be 9 workshops over 3 sessions to choose from:

- See Hear: Two years on
- Action on Hearing Loss employment and young people
- Deaf Action and Linda Thomson
- Deaf Sector Partnership: Consulting on the BSL National Plan
- NDCS Scotland
- Voluntary Action Scotland: Building Community Assets
- GIRFEC: Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People
- Signature
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. For more information about the programme, go to http://www.scod.org.uk/scod-connect-and-capitalise-2017/

We will also have a Marketplace where delegates can find out more about organisations and services in the Deaf Sector.

Last year’s Marketplace looked like this:

To book a place for the conference, please go to https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scod-connect-capitalise-2017-tickets-29816166958

We hope to see you at this third conference which should be even better than the last two.
LATEST NEWS FROM SCoD

Consultations

The UK Government is consulting on a Green Paper Improving Lives Work, Health and Disability. SCoD submitted our response to the Green Paper – to read the response go to http://www.scod.org.uk/information/consultation-responses/ where it is available as a Word document and a PDF.

Membership

2017 is going to be a great year for SCoD. We are about to start a yearlong celebration of our 90th year of being…Join SCoD and join the party…Our members are drawn from the Public, Third and Private Sectors. We have organisational and individual options.

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.

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 to contact us.
GENERAL NEWS

DSP / BSL NAG Update

The DSP Second Quarter Report will be published on the Deaf Sector Partnership website shortly.

We are all working towards the launch of the consultation on the first draft BSL National Plan, which is due to start at the beginning of March. More information on how to take part will be available in the March bulletin.

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.

Universities must do more for disabled and BSL user students, finds parliamentary committee

Scotland’s universities, which receive over £1 billion in funding from the Scottish Government each year, must do more to meet their statutory obligations towards disabled people and British Sign Language (BSL) users according to a report from the Scottish Parliament’s Equalities and Human Rights Committee.

The Committee warned that failing to embed equalities risks creating grounds for future compensation claims by disabled people and BSL users whose statutory rights were not met.

Evidence from current and former students highlights the need to embed a culture of ownership of equalities policy and the Committee recommends universities should move from voluntary to mandatory training on equalities to ensure cultural change amongst academic staff.

The Committee further identified a number of other widespread issues across the sector from the admissions process, right through to supporting students to complete their studies and participate in university life.

Equalities and Human Rights Committee Convener, Christina McKelvie MSP, said:
“It is vital that disabled people with disabilities are not excluded from the opportunities that higher education can unlock, just because of a disability. Universities must strive to meet their statutory obligations. “We heard lots of compelling evidence about improvements that could be made to the current admissions processes at universities that would benefit disabled people or BSL users.

“We recognise that some of the changes we are calling for will take time and resources to implement. However, relatively simple steps, like taking into account the extra obstacles many disabled people or BSL users will have overcome when universities consider applications, could be achieved more easily. We hope that our recommendations are taken on board by universities so that no one in Scotland who has a disability is unable to reach their full potential.”

The Committee also found that universities should provide more basic information in BSL format and adopt contextualised admissions for both disabled and BSL applicants. In terms of funding, the Committee sees the role of the Scottish Funding Council as critical to promoting equalities issues with universities through the outcome agreement process.

MSPs from Holyrood’s Equalities and Human Rights Committee heard evidence on this topic as part of their 2017-18 draft budget scrutiny. Witnesses included disabilities groups, universities, and Scottish Ministers, amongst others, over a period of two months.

Background
The full report of the Committee is available [here](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/103134.aspx). Correspondence, Official Reports and written evidence relating to the inquiry is available [here](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/101691.aspx).

[Children’s Parliament website](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/Equalities-Human-Rights-Committee.aspx)

The Children’s Parliament will be 21 in 2017. To mark this special birthday, we are creating an inspiring and brave band of Unfearties.
Unfearties are individuals who are not feart, are making a difference in children’s lives, and who are willing to speak up for, and stand alongside, children.

To join our brave band of Unfearties, go to http://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/about-us/unfearties/become-an-unfeartie/

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Asset Transfer legislation now in force


All the guidance, model forms and other useful stuff is available on our website at http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/AssetTransfer. This includes a new summary guide in simple language. The website will continue to be developed over coming weeks, in particular with model governing documents for community transfer bodies, and we’ll be completing and updating the contacts for relevant authorities.

Queries about the guidance etc can be sent to assettransferguidance@gov.scot
Please note we can’t give advice on handling specific cases, but we can direct you to relevant bits of the guidance or legislation and other sources of advice.

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Health Care needs in Schools

The Scottish Government has published the consultation on draft guidance on Healthcare Needs in Schools. This draft guidance has been developed in partnership with a range of key stakeholders representing children and young people, health and education services.

The consultation will run until 24 Apr 2017 and is available from https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/supporting-learners/guidance-on-healthcare-needs-in-schools/ Responses can be provided online through the consultation hub or using the consultation response document. Details of where to send the response are contained within the consultation response document. All responses to the consultation will be considered no matter which way they are provided.
Evaluation of Voluntary Action Scotland

An independent evaluation of Voluntary Action Scotland, the national network supporting Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs), by APS Group Scotland (led by Blake Stevenson) has been published by the Scottish Government. The evaluation highlights weaknesses in the effectiveness of VAS, but concludes that the TSI network requires an intermediary body and that the Scottish Government should continue to support VAS, with new partnership agreements and the continuation of recent changes in its governance. SCoD has been working with VAS and the TSI network to improve the access and citizenship opportunities for deaf people, with some success.

Studio Lambert

We are currently producing the second series of the hit BBC Two show “Big Life Fix”, an exciting and innovative science series that sees a skilled team of scientists, engineers and designers create bespoke technology for individuals and groups to transform their lives for the better.

In the first series, our team came up with solutions for a range of issues affecting individuals and communities, including creating a device to counter the effects of Parkinson’s disease for a young graphic designer, building a bicycle for a boy born with no hands or feet, and connecting a remote village in Wales up to the internet.

We’re now planning a second series and looking for more people who feel they could benefit from a tailor-made invention. Perhaps it’s a daily task, a hobby or a lifelong dream that’s proving to be a challenge. Or maybe a disability that needs help managing, or a problem that you and your family, or even your whole community face. We’d love to chat to anyone who would like to apply. If selected, our team will work with them to tackle their problem or challenge using ingenious design and technology.

It would be fantastic if you could circulate this email and attached flyer to anyone you know to help us spread the word about this fantastic opportunity.

If anyone is interested in applying, they can call the casting team on 0203 040 6908 or email us at biglifefix@studiolambert.com. All calls are treated in the strictest of confidence. Alternatively, a short contact form can be filled out here to express interest in the show: http://www.studiolambert.com/take-part-the-big-life-fix.html
EVENTS

Celebration Event – Loving Lanarkshire Event
Saturday 25 March 2017

Information Hall

- Providing information on other deaf and local organisation
- Free bouncy castle and face painting
- Free tea and coffee
- All deaf and hearing people welcome

Taking place at: Cathedral Primary School
171 Milton Street
Motherwell
ML1 1DH

At 1pm – 6pm

Celebration Party

- Buffet
- Bar
- DJ
- Over 18’s only
- Fun and Laughter
- Meet old and new friends

Taking place at Daisy Park Community Centre
Cassels Street
Motherwell
ML1 1DX

At 6pm – 12am

For more information, contact us on 01698 268700 or 07941 687534

Or go to our website: http://www.lanarkshired deafclub.co.uk/

Student Carers in Higher Education
Friday 24 March 2017

[Carerstrust Scotland logo]
Invitation: Student Carers in Higher Education: Learning and Showcase Event, Friday 24 March 2017.

We would be delighted if you would join us for the Student Carer in Higher Education - Showcase and Learning Exchange taking place at the University of Strathclyde, Insight Institute, Collins Building, Glasgow G1 1XQ from 10.00 - 16.00 on Friday 24 March 2017.

There is no national data on the number of students studying at university in Scotland who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction could not cope without their support. But research undertaken by Carers Trust found that 45% of student carers reported having mental health problems, 56% were experiencing difficulties because of their caring role and student carers are four times more likely to drop out of university than those who are not carers.

Our event will provide an opportunity to showcase some of the work that Carers Trust Scotland, universities and national higher education organisations have been undertaking to review and improve identification and support for student carers in Scotland. The event will also provide a platform to discuss the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and considerations for higher education institutions, as well as providing a stage for student carers' voices to be heard about their accounts in higher education and the challenges that they can experience in juggling life, unpaid caring and university. The event will also encourage dialogue between student carers, higher education professionals and decision makers who are present.

This event will aid in informing the university sector and governments on how to better support student carers.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 15 March 2017 to scotland@carers.org or call us on 0300 123 2008. Please also circulate this to appropriate colleagues, partners or carers that you are connected with who may be interested in attending.

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British Deaf Association

BDA Scotland is very excited to announce that there will be TWO BSL Tour events. On Tuesday, 21 February, we go to Glasgow City Chambers in the city of Glasgow. We explore the old town hall and learn about how it was designed and built about one hundred years ago.

Another one is at Low Moss Prison outside Glasgow. We will explore the history of many different prisons in Scotland. Also, we work with prison staff members on how to provide access to BSL for Deaf BSL users that go to prisons.

See links below.

Low Moss Prison
Scottish Government – Future Me Campaign
20 February – end of March 2017

The Future me campaign has been launched online and the campaign will run until end of March.

The Future Me campaign calls on all parents and carers to find out what their children’s big dreams are: ‘What do you dream of doing in the future?’

Future Me is the latest initiative from Read, Write, Count, a Scottish Government campaign to help support parents and children to practice reading, writing and counting together.

We are asking families to submit their children’s dreams, and these will be added to Scotland’s giant dream wall on Futureme.scot. Children can draw their dream in a picture, write it in a letter, or act it out in a video together. All families who submit a dream will receive a certificate by email for participating.

How to enter
Parents and carers can upload their children’s dreams directly to the Futureme.scot website, or alternatively they can fill out one of the entry forms that can be found at local libraries.

For more information on Read, Write, Count, and Future Me, and lots of online resources check out the website at www.readwritecount.scot, or alternatively email us at readwritecount@union.co.uk.

For more information please contact www.Futureme.scot

Links in social media www.facebook.com/ReadWriteCount www.twitter.com/readwritecount

Scotland’s top chefs unite for unique Aberdeen foodie event
4 March 2017

Update: Tony Singh MBE, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours list in January, is the fourth prestigious chef to add his name to the Savour event, which has been devised to excite the sense of sight, taste and smell.

Three of Scotland’s finest chefs are teaming up to share their passion for food in a unique culinary experience, which is set to be a recipe for success for Aberdeen.

Nick Nairn, Ross Spence, executive chef at The Marcliffe Hotel & Spa and Paul Whitecross, executive chef at Trump International, will each present an individual course aimed at delighting the senses, showcasing their world-renowned gastronomic skills.

The trio are working together to cook-up Savour, a culinary feast which will take place on Saturday, 4th March, at the Marcliffe Hotel & Spa.

The event is being hosted alongside North East Sensory Services (NESS), a charity which supports people of all ages from babies to grandparents, who were born deaf or blind, or for those who have lost their sight or hearing.

As well as a four-course dinner focusing on the senses of taste, smell, and sight, the evening will include a champagne drinks reception, a VIP auction and raffle, followed by entertainment and dancing.

Savour will take place on Saturday, 4th March, 2017, at the Marcliffe Hotel & Spa. Tables are priced at £950, with individual tickets available at £95, and can be purchased from neil.skene@nesensoryservices.org or by calling 0345 271 2345.

Come to the Gathering! Scotland’s largest event for charities, social enterprises & voluntary organisations. 22 & 23 February 2017

Free Events

There are over 50 free workshops and seminars running on 22 and 23 February. Whether you’re after practical support or the latest developments, there are opportunities to listen, learn and be heard on a range of issues.

Exhibition & marketplace

We have over 80 exhibitors on board so far participating in our lively exhibition and marketplace where visitors will have the opportunity to engage and network with each other.
Contact us

If you have any questions about taking part in the Gathering 2017 please contact a member of the SCVO events team at thegathering@scvo.org.uk.

SCVO Events Team

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International Women’s Day
8 March 2017

Event will take place at 10am – 4pm at Deaf Action’s office in Edinburgh

Accessible and free!

For more information contact: keah.kalaitzi@deafaction.org

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Taste your Future
Wednesday 1 March 2017

The British Deaf Association Scotland Deaf Roots and Pride Project is hosting a Taste Your Future careers event at Glasgow University Union Dining Room, 32 University Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8LX on Wednesday 1st March 2017 from 10am – 2pm for Deaf young people of secondary school age across central Scotland. The Deaf young people who attend will have the opportunity to meet Deaf adults who work in a wide range of different fields throughout the day. We hope to have many professions represented.

It may be beneficial to your organisation and to the Deaf young people if your organisation was to be represented at this event. We have a limited availability of space which will be allocated on a first come first served basis if you wish to attend or, alternatively, you can still provide us with your leaflets and information about your resources. We are happy to display these for the Deaf young people and schools to browse and take away with them.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Charlene Dolan at:
Text/SMS: 07795822102
Email: transitionscot.drp@bda.org.uk
ooVoo: charlenedolan

BSL video at https://www.bda.org.uk/Event/taste-your-future-scotland
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
Email: info@deafperspective.co.uk
Tel: 0141 314 0032
Fax: 0141 314 0026
SMS: 07979 748694

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The British Academy of Audiology North East Regional Group Study Day

The British Academy of Audiology North East Regional Group is holding their annual regional study day on Friday 17th March 2017 at the Durham County Cricket Club in Durham.

The theme of this study day is 'Advancing Audiology: Non-Routine Adult Services' and is open to all Audiology professionals, you do not need to be a member of the BAA to attend.

There will also be a selection of companies from the Audiology sector in attendance at the event.

This event is free for members and only £50 for non-members to attend.

Programme highlights include:

- Audiology for adults with learning disabilities
- Designing a service for adults with learning disabilities
- Multidisciplinary working for adults with complex needs
- BAHA and Middle Ear Implants
- Tinnitus
- Latest developments in CI plus a patient perspective
- Specialist Adult Rehab clinics
- Developments in dementia
- ... and many more!
SSC Course 21: Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder - basics to management:
Tuesday, 28th February, 2017

This course will be of interest to mainstream teachers, teachers of the deaf, speech & language therapists, support staff, early years workers, educational psychologists, parents; those working with pre-school/early primary school-aged children who are cochlear implant users or hearing aid users.

Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder is a condition where children can vary from normal functional hearing to profound hearing loss. Discussion topics will cover:
- presentation features, possible predisposing conditions, the tests which need to be done;
- guidelines for cochlear implant assessment and the recommendations;
- the need of multidisciplinary team and cases histories.

Participants should bring along anonymous case histories which can be discussed on the day.

Course fee: £110

Presenters: Dr Kaukab Rajput, Consultant Audiovestibular Physician, ad Clinician for Paediatric Cochlear Implant Program, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust, London; and Ruth Merritt, Consultant Speech and Language Therapist, Kent

Applications are available to download from the following link:
http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/dfeb17.html

SSC Course 25: Deafness and Additional/Complex Needs: Friday, 24th March, 2017

This course is for all professionals working with deaf young people either in mainstream or specialist provision.

This course will explore:
- developing awareness of the incidence and range of additional needs that can accompany deafness;
- understanding the impact of additional needs upon the developing deaf child;
- effective audiological management and assessment of hearing loss;
- understanding of your role as the supporting professional.

These objectives will be achieved through:
- Interactive teaching sessions.
- Workshops.
- Practical activities.
• Sharing of good practice.
• Signposting to resources.

Presenter:
Jane Peters, (ToD), Senior Lecturer Mary Hare Courses & Course leader MA/PGDip Educational Studies (Early Years and Deafness)

Course fee:
£110

Applications are available to download from the following link:
http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/dmar17.htm

If you prefer a copy of the application form emailed to you please get back in touch.

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).

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

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**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.**


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

West of Scotland Deaf Children’s Society

West of Scotland Deaf Children’s Society (WSDCS) is a local charity dedicated to providing support to deaf children and their families which improves their quality of life and helps them achieve their potential.

Resource Worker
WSDCS Glasgow Office Based
£9227.40 per year
21 hours per week

WSDCS is extending and strengthening its support services for deaf children and families in the West of Scotland. We’re expanding our front-line family support to reach out to even more families of deaf children.

We are looking for a Resource Worker who can make a big difference to the lives of deaf children and their families in the West of Scotland. The focus of the role will be to provide information, activities and support to families and carers of deaf children and young people and help support the work of WSDCS by helping to secure funding and practical support to our office base.
In addition, you will use your experience and skills working with families to work with our volunteers to improve the lives and opportunities of deaf children and their families across West Scotland.

For an application pack please ring our recruitment line on 0141 243 2958 or email us at wsdcs@btconnect.com

The closing date for applications is Monday, 20th February 2017 at 12 midday and interviews will take place on Monday, 27th February 2017

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**CINEMA/THEATRE**

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

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story - 500+
subtitled shows:
http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/rogueone.html

Moana, Sully, Edge Of Seventeen, Bleed for This, Fantastic Beasts, A United Kingdom, Allied, Bad Santa 2, Paterson, Arrival, Doctor Strange, A Street Cat Named Bob, Trolls & more:
http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/films.html

Entertain AND Educate! Cheap subtitled kids shows: Pete's Dragon, Finding Dory, The Secret Life Of Pets and more:
http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/kids.html

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. Just email:
subtitles@yourlocalcinema.com

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

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**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, MOTIONS AND DEBATES**

National Health Service (Support for British Sign Language Users)
S5O-00665 Gillian Martin (Aberdeenshire East) (SNP):
To ask the Scottish Government how the NHS supports patients who communicate using British Sign Language.

The Minister for Mental Health (Maureen Watt):
The patient charter clearly sets out what patients can expect when they use NHS Scotland services and receive care. That includes the right to be given the information that they need in a format or language that they can understand. Under the Equality Act 2010, NHS Scotland is required to provide translation and interpreting services and written material whenever that is possible and reasonable. All NHS boards have a published accessibility policy and arrangements in place to support such needs. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can access Scotland’s national health and information service, NHS inform, by using the contactSCOTLAND-BSL service, by textphone or by web chat, which is available on the NHS inform website.

Gillian Martin: A constituent of mine—Rosemary Mitchell from Ellon—is launching a campaign to get BSL training for end-of-life care staff, after she lost her mother, who was hearing impaired, to cancer last year. Will the minister outline what assistance there is for training in British Sign Language for NHS staff?

Maureen Watt:
It is each NHS board’s legal responsibility to comply with the equality legislation as it applies to British Sign Language training. However, the Scottish Government has asked NHS Health Scotland to engage with boards to ensure that they understand their legal obligations and to develop plans to support improvements and share best practice in the use of BSL in NHS settings throughout Scotland, including palliative care settings.


Jobcentre Closures

S5F-00861 Bob Doris (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (SNP):
To ask the First Minister what representations the Scottish Government has made to the United Kingdom Government regarding the announcement of further jobcentre closures in Scotland.

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):
I am very concerned by the announcement that the Department for Work and Pensions will close up to 23 Jobcentre Plus sites in Scotland. The lack of impact assessments and consultation of the communities affected is totally unacceptable. The closures will mean people who rely on jobcentre services travelling further, incurring increased transport costs and facing increased risk of benefit sanctions. Therefore, it is essential that the UK Government reconsider that approach. The Minister for Employability and Training has raised those concerns directly with the UK Government and has sought urgent clarification of the impact on people who use jobcentres and the staff who work in those vital services.
Bob Doris:
In a recent debate that I brought to Parliament, there was strong cross-party support to save my local jobcentre in Maryhill and others throughout Glasgow. However, the Conservatives refused—I quote them—to “condone” or “condemn” the eight closures. Given the fact that there will now be 23 closures nationwide, with one of them being in Ruth Davidson’s Edinburgh constituency, does the First Minister agree that it is time for all MSPs, including Ruth Davidson, to put their constituents first and demand that the DWP halt the closure of all 23 Jobcentre Plus offices until there is full and meaningful consultation of the communities and staff who will be affected, and ensure that equality impact assessments are carried out? Let us defend our constituents.

The First Minister:
Yes—I agree that it is important for all MSPs across the chamber to unite to urge the UK Government to reconsider its approach to the proposed programme of closures, and to consult all the Scottish communities that will be affected by closures of what are essential local services. The Scottish Government is taking a lead on the matter. Bob Doris and others have played key roles in opposing the closures in Glasgow and there is now significant cross-party support against the closures.

It is unfortunate that Tory MSPs are declining to stand up and be counted on the issue, which is important to Glasgow and other parts of Scotland. It is equally unfortunate that Ruth Davidson herself has declined to stand up for vulnerable people in her constituency who might be affected by the closures. It is time for all of us in the chamber to say to the UK Government that the closures are wrong and will harm vulnerable people, and that the proposals must be urgently reconsidered.


S5M-03873 Jobcentre Plus Network

The Deputy Presiding Officer (Christine Grahame):
The next item of business is a debate on motion S5M-03873, in the name of Jamie Hepburn, on the future of the Jobcentre Plus network.

The Minister for Employability and Training (Jamie Hepburn):
Thank you, Presiding Officer. We recently debated proposals from the United Kingdom Department for Work and Pensions to close Jobcentre Plus facilities in Scotland. At the time, I predicted that it would not be long before we would debate such matters again—and here we are.

The proposals for Scotland-wide closures affect communities and people the length and breadth of the country. They are disproportionate in their impact and they have been announced with little detail, after limited consultation and even less engagement with the people who rely on or work in Jobcentre Plus services. Today’s debate allows this Parliament to send a loud and clear message about our concerns about the far-reaching implications for people who rely on access to the services of their local jobcentre—in particular, vulnerable customers—and the implications for DWP staff in the locations and offices that are targeted for closure.

On 7 December last year, the closure of half the jobcentres in Glasgow—eight out of 16—was revealed in the press. There was no consultation of, or prior notice given to,
the communities that were affected, to the Scottish Government or to this Parliament. I alluded to the opportunity that Parliament had to debate the Glasgow closures during a members’ business debate on 18 January, which my friend Bob Doris brought to the chamber. Voices across the chamber united with the voices of people from outside Parliament to express concern about the impact on people who rely on Glasgow’s jobcentre network. Those voices were united in condemnation of the fact that the proposals were not communicated to communities.

Indeed, the UK Government seems not even to know where Glasgow is. When Caroline Nokes MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery, was asked in the House of Commons about the closures in Glasgow, she said:

“the Minister for Employment”—

doctor that is, the UK minister, Damian Hinds—

“was in Musselburgh just two weeks ago”—[Official Report, House of Commons, 30 January 2017; Vol 620, c 671.] That is just one example of how far removed the UK Government is from communities in Scotland.

To read the whole motion debate, go to http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10780

Department for Work and Pensions Estate

908522 Gavin Newlands (Paisley and Renfrewshire North) (SNP):
What assessment the Government have made of the potential effect on equality for social security claimants of its proposals on the future of the Department for Work and Pensions estate.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery (Caroline Nokes)
The Government are committed to complying with our public sector equality duty, and we will take account of feedback from our public consultations. We will undertake an equality analysis as part of the detailed planning for service reconfiguration, which will include feedback from public consultations in those locations where this applies.

Gavin Newlands
Last week, the UK Government announced the closure of 15 jobcentre sites in Scotland, including the Lonend site in Paisley. This follows a proposal to close eight jobcentres in Glasgow, which was announced in December. Does the Minister agree that it is a dereliction of duty and an insult to those affected not to conduct an
equality impact assessment in advance of these plans, given the hardship that they will cause to thousands of the most disadvantaged people?

Caroline Nokes
The views and opinions from the consultations we are carrying out with claimants who use the services across the country, not simply in Scotland, will be fed into our equality analysis.

Justin Tomlinson (North Swindon) (Con)
The single biggest boost to equality delivered through our Department for Work and Pensions estate is the introduction of named universal credit work coaches and their personalised support. What is the current roll-out timetable?

Caroline Nokes
The roll-out of universal credit is increasing apace, and, from September, we expect it to roll out to 43 jobcentres every single month. My right hon. Friend is right to point out that work coaches are a crucial part of getting people back into work. As part of the service reconfiguration, we are working to ensure that individual claimants can maintain the relationship with their work coaches.

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-02-02/debates/3C8019E5-D023-4808-B853-4532347DD624/OralAnswersToQuestions

P002005 Closure of Maryhill Jobcentre

Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)
The petition states:

The petition of residents of Glasgow North,

Declares that the Department for Work and Pensions’ plan to close Maryhill Jobcentre and half of all Jobcentre Plus offices in Glasgow is morally outrageous; express our concerns that the city is being used as the testing ground for more devastating cuts across the UK; further that the proposals to close eight of the 16 Jobcentre offices across Glasgow, will impact on tens of thousands of people in receipt of Jobseeker’s Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Universal Credit; further that the UK Government has already indicated that 20% of the Jobcentre estate will see closures, and Glasgow has been handpicked to take a disproportionate hit of 50% closures; further that it will result in the poorest communities not being serviced by a Jobcentre and make it even harder for those seeking employment to get support; further that thousands of people could also have to travel further at additional cost to attend their appointments; further that the UK Government have brought forward these proposals without carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment and without consulting the Scottish Government; and further that any Jobcentre closures in Glasgow will see one of the most deprived parts of the UK starved of a vital service that should be available in communities; impacting both on Scottish workers at these centres and also those most disadvantaged in need of benefits.
The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to halt any moves to close Maryhill Jobcentre, or at the very least carry out an Equality Impact Assessment immediately prior to a full public consultation across Scotland.

And the petitioners remain, etc.

There are a number of petitions on the closure of Jobcentres in Glasgow - https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-02-08

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