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



CONNECT & CAPITALISE

SCoD's "Connect & Capitalise*" Conference 2017

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Conference on Thursday 9th March and made it such a special day. The buzz was amazing!

We would appreciate it if those who attended could give us their feedback as this will help us to plan for next year's "Connect and Collaborate 2018" conference. Watch out for the email coming out with the link to the survey on it.

The Conference report will be available early summer.



LATEST NEWS FROM SCoD

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 in the **Deaf Sector Partnership** section.

Membership

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](tel:01412482474).

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

Best wishes
Janis & the SCoD Team

GENERAL NEWS

DSP / BSL NAG Update



BSL National Plan Consultation – EDUCATION

Wednesday 22 March 2017

There will be an opening meeting to discuss 'EDUCATION' on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at 6.00pm - 8.00pm at Paterson's Land Room G1, Scottish Sensory Centre, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ.

Frankie McLean will be chairing this event.

There will be a panel of people of people confirmed. Mr Mark McDonald, Lead Minister responsible for BSL will be attending.

There will be BSL / English Interpreters and Electronic Note-takers provided.

Limited 100 places available – please book your place to avoid disappointment. Here is the link for Eventbrite to book your place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bsl-national-plan-consultation-education-tickets-32882125322>

For more information, contact Derek Todd, DSP Coordinator, at admin@deafsectorpartnership.net

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.



New online Money Manager tool for Universal Credit claimants

A new [online support tool](#) has been launched to help Universal Credit claimants manage their money.

Money Advice Service's Money Manager provides free, impartial budgeting information and advice for claimants, based on their personal circumstances. For example, it provides:

- advice and guidance on how to manage a monthly income
- money-saving hints and tips
- signposting to other services

Claimants who have already used the tool have said that they found it helpful and user-friendly.

The Money Manager is a new addition to the existing budgeting support Universal Credit claimants can access. Face-to-face support is still available locally for those who need it.

Universal Credit in Action has published a [YouTube video on how the Money Manager can help claimants manage their Universal Credit payments](#).



Peer Support for Work Hubs - SUSE

Over the past month there has been significant progress with our hubs and we have five in Edinburgh either started or starting imminently with Glasgow following suit very soon. The Peer Support for Work hubs are a really important space for Disabled People or those with Long Term Health Condition to come together to

share lived experiences, useful information and build the confidence required to progress into work.

The importance of your input as a provider or employer cannot be underestimated. We need you to encourage clients/disabled staff to just come along or refer them to us where appropriate.

We are all working towards a common aim to ensure everyone has the right to work and to the support they need to get there.....

We would particularly welcome the new members to our hub at the Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre Community Space in Edinburgh. This Group meets every Thursday 1pm-3pm and we will be inviting along guest speakers, having lively discussions and with it being in a shopping centre there's always an opportunity for people to make friends and do a little socialising afterwards.

For more information on this hub and others please contact:

Elspeth Ferguson – Peer Support Coordinator

elspeth@susescotland.scot

0131 669 1133 or 07793 146 231

EVENTS



The status of children & young people in Scotland isn't as high as it should be, and this is our chance to change it!

Does your group or organisation work with children, young people and their families?
Or do your members or service users have caring responsibilities for children or young people?

Come along and have a conversation about what works well, what are the challenges, and how we can improve the life experiences of all children and young people in East Renfrewshire.

When: 28th March 2017, 4-7 pm

Where: Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire SCIO,
56 Kelburn Street, G78 1LR, Barrhead

Please book your place, but feel free to come at any time between 4-7 pm.

To book go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-it-right-for-every-child-young-person-tickets-32468872271>

**Are you deaf or hard of hearing? Aged 16-25?
Wednesday 5 April 2017**



Want to learn or improve your sign language or lip-reading skills?

Join us for a 1 day course and learn communication skills from trained professionals

ATLA

Lipreading Taster session – 11:30 – 1:30

British Sign Language taster session – 2:30 – 4:30

When: Wednesday 5th April 2017

Where: NDCS, 131 West Nile Street, Glasgow. G1 2RX

For more information and to book your place, contact:

Ray Bradshaw, Employment Adviser

Tel: 0141 341 5337 Textphone: 0141 341 5350

Email: ray.bradshaw@hearingloss.org.uk

**Signing Science
Are you 16-18 year old and
studying science who uses
BSL to learn?**



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Moray House
School of Education

If so, come along to a one-day stem cell and sign language workshop in Edinburgh with the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the Scottish Sensory Centre.

This free event will be a chance to explore the exciting field of stem cell research. You will take part in a variety of fun science activities and learn science signs.

New stem cell related signs will also be added to the BSL Glossary Project website.

When: 27 March 2017

Time: 11am – 3pm

Location: MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, 5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh, EH16 4UU

Taxis will be provided from Edinburgh Waverly Station at 10:30am. Lunch is also provided.

If you would like to attend please complete the form, teachers are also welcome.

All information required can be found on this website.

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/BSL/list.html>

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.



Discussion Document - National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan

Closes 28 Mar 2017

To ensure we have the right staff for our health and social care services now and in the future, we will publish a National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan in Spring 2017.

This Discussion Document seeks comments and views from individuals and organisations about the issues the National Plan will need to cover. It sets out ideas on workforce planning at national, regional and local level. And it asks questions about a number of key areas, including governance, workforce planning roles, workforce data and recruiting and retaining staff.

[Download the consultation paper.](#)

Why We Are Consulting

Scottish Ministers wish to ensure we have the right staff for our health and social care services now and in future. Different employers in health and social care are at different stages in planning for the workforce they need. It is essential that the roles they play, individually and collectively, and the areas they influence, are well understood. This Discussion Document seeks views on issues which will help improve planning for the health and social care workforce. These views will inform the development of the National Plan to be published in Spring 2017, so that the Plan can bring about improvements where they are needed both now and in future.

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/health-workforce/national-health-and-social-care-workforce-plan/>

TRAINING



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 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

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

Moray House School of Education



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Moray House
School of Education

Two Secondment Opportunities

Institute of Education, Teaching and Leadership, Scottish Sensory Centre

Teachers of Deaf Children: Education CPD Organiser

We invite applications from qualified teachers of the deaf with relevant classroom experience of deaf children for the **seconded** post of Deaf Education CPD Organiser. This part-time, one day a week secondment during school term time will contribute to the work of the Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC).

For informal enquiries/discussion interested candidates may contact:

Professor John Ravenscroft

Co-ordinator

Scottish Sensory Centre

0131 651 6501

0131 651 6181 (direct line)

Email: john.ravenscroft@ed.ac.uk .

Skype: (video calls can be organised by arrangement).

NB: Before applying formally all candidates should have the approval of their employing authority to undertake this role.

Closing date for applications is: Friday 24th March 2017

Interview date: Friday 21st April 2017

Institute of Education, Teaching and Leadership: Scottish Sensory Centre

Deaf Education CPD Organiser

Applications are invited for the secondment: Deaf Education CPD organiser. This part-time, one day a week secondment during school term time will contribute to the work of the Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC).

The Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC) is funded by the Scottish Government through the Additional Support for Learning Division and the University of Edinburgh. The Centre is one of several national centres within the Institute of Education, Teaching and Leadership at the Moray House School of Education and has been based at the Holyrood Campus, now part of the University of Edinburgh, since 1991.

The SSC promotes innovation and good practice in the education of deaf, visually impaired, and deafblind pupils and students in Scotland. The Centre collaborates with all those interested in education (including deaf, visually impaired, and deafblind pupils, their parents and voluntary organisations) and provides high quality career professional development and knowledge exchange. An annual programme of Career-Long Professional Learning (CLPL) training courses cover issues in the education of deaf, visually impaired, and deafblind pupils and is supported by professional expertise and relevant research from within the University of Edinburgh as well as outside it. The SSC website (www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk) and specialist library support CPD and research with additional reading and detailed information on a range of topics relating to deafness, visual impairment and education.

The SSC is a multidisciplinary team. Individuals have specific roles but they also support each other in the running of the Centre (“all hands on deck” environment).

For more information on both secondments and how to apply, go to <http://www.scod.org.uk/information/vacancies/>

General information about the SSC can be found at www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk and for more information about Moray House School of Education go to www.ed.ac.uk/education .



Deaf Equality & Accessibility Forum, South Lanarkshire
Post advert: Co-ordinator

£23,640 per annum, 35 hours per week, one year fixed term contract, D.E.A.F. Hamilton office, with travel throughout South Lanarkshire

The Deaf Equality & Accessibility Forum (DEAF) was recently established as a registered charity to improve the condition of life for people who are Deaf, Hard of hearing and Deafblind people in South Lanarkshire through providing access to information and advice, educational and training opportunities, recreational and leisure pursuits and by raising awareness of issues affecting those with hearing impairments. Through our forum we aim to challenge negative attitudes and discriminatory practices to enable deaf and hard of hearing people to contribute to shaping the policies which affect their lives and to ultimately improve the social inclusion of such people. Also involve with the South Lanarkshire Council with the National BSL plan.

The post-holder will be responsible for co-ordinating, developing and reach out to Deaf, Hard of hearing and Deafblind people within South Lanarkshire wide area.

Advance their educational opportunities and provide facilities for recreational or other leisure-time occupations in the interests of social welfare, with the aim of improving conditions of life. Previous experience as a Front office manager or office administrator would be an advantage. A successful Co-ordinator should also have experience with a variety of office software (email tools, spreadsheets and databases) and be able to accurately handle administrative duties.

To be considered for this innovative role, you will:

- Be a native BSL user or have acquired a Level 6 qualification in BSL
- To enable Deaf, Hard of hearing and Deafblind people to contribute in shaping the policies which affect their lives
- To work to challenge negative attitudes and to combat discriminatory practices
- To campaign for equal opportunities for Deaf, Hard of hearing and Deafblind people
- To improve the social inclusion of Deaf, Hard of hearing and Deafblind people
- Excellent organisational, administrative and presentation skills
- Knowledge and experience *in grant* applications
- Ability and experience of writing reports, minutes
- Knowledge of office administrator responsibilities, systems and procedures
- Excellence knowledge of High ICT skills, including graphic, print & web design
- Knowledge of the Equality Act, BSL Act, National BSL plan and other relevant legislation

The closing date for applications are on 24th March 2017 at 9am. The shortlisting process will be decided on 28th March and we expect interviews to be held in Hamilton on 31st March 2017.

Contact details for application form:

D.E.A.F. - email: admin@deafsouthlanarkshire.org.uk or by text 07795 198 450.

BDA SCOTLAND - JOB VACANCY



Access & Inclusion (Give Me BSL) Officer

Part-time (21 hours/week)

£24,000 (£14,400 pro-rata)

Based in Glasgow (two years fixed contract)

Funded by the Scottish Government through a CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund Grant, British Deaf Association (BDA) Scotland is seeking to recruit an Access & Inclusion (Give Me BSL) Officer for the Give Me BSL project.

The Access & Inclusion (Give Me BSL) Officer will be responsible for setting up our new early years project – Give Me BSL with new approaches to parenting and family capacity with regard to British Sign Language (BSL). This will allow parents to become more empowered and give their Deaf children aged 0-7 the best start in life. The post involves setting up information, focus groups and training for families – including the “BSL Taster for Wee Ones” activity in the central belt of Scotland.

The successful candidate will have proven organisational skills, experience of advocacy work and knowledge of promoting BSL.

Closing date for applications: Friday 24th March 2017 at 12 noon

Interview dates: Monday 3rd and/or Wednesday 5th April 2017

For further information, please contact:

Avril Hepner, Community Development Manager Scotland: cado.sthscot@bda.org.uk

For an application form, job description in English and BSL - please see webpage: <https://www.britishdeafnews.co.uk/.../access-inclusion-give-.../>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BritishDeafAssociation/>

Web – <https://www.britishdeafnews.co.uk/jobs/>

BDA Tweet – https://twitter.com/BDA_Deaf/status/840150178212470789

BDN Tweet - <https://twitter.com/BritishDeafNews/status/840150486711844870>

British Deaf Association

APPRENTICESHIPS IN SCOTLAND:

Do go along and find out more about the different apprenticeships on offer.

<https://www.apprenticeships.scot/scottish-apprenticeship-w.../>

And, if you want more information, do contact me as below or via the BDA website. Thank you.

CHARLENE DOLAN

Transition Officer

Deaf Roots and Pride Project

BDA Scotland | Suite 58 | Central Chambers | 93 Hope Street | Glasgow G2 6LD |

email: transitionscot.drp@bda.org.uk

m/sms/facetime: 07795 822102

skype/oovoo: charlenedolan

T: 0141 248 5565



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!



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)

S5O-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?

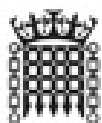
John Swinney:

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>



www.parliament.uk

Early day motion 1009 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Primary sponsor: Paul Monaghan

That this House regrets the findings of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, having conducted an inquiry under Article 6 of the Protocol to the Convention, that has identified serious and systematic violations of the Convention by the UK; notes the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has found reliable evidence that the threshold of grave or systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities has been met in the UK; recognises that this finding reflects very poorly on the Government in failing to meet internationally-accepted standards in regard to the provision of care and support for the UK's most vulnerable people; and calls on the Prime Minister to intervene personally and to direct her Ministers to prioritise immediate compliance with all Convention standards on the Rights of Persons with a Disability, and to apologise to both the UN and to all persons with a disability for failing to satisfactorily identify and provide acceptable minimum levels of care, support and maintenance necessary to meet the basic living requirements of all persons with disabilities and resident in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1009>

Early day motion 1039 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland – Top Three in the World

Primary sponsor: Alison Thewliss

That this House notes the publication of the QS World Rankings of Universities; understands that the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), based in Glasgow Central constituency, is ranked among the top three performing arts institutions in the world; further understands that the RCS has trained some of the most famous actors and musicians in the world, including Alan Cumming, Sheena Easton, Ian McDiarmid, Robert Carlyle and David Tennant; believes that the RCS has made a substantial contribution to the arts and culture, in Scotland and across the world; and congratulates the RCS on its achievement and wishes them every success for the future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1039>

British Sign Language Act - Early day motion 1060

Primary sponsor:

Dawn Butler

That this House welcomes the 14th anniversary of the Government's official recognition of British Sign Language on 18 March 2017; celebrates the culture and heritage of sign language; and calls on the Government to enact a British Sign Language Act in England to give British Sign Language full legal status as is afforded to other officially recognised languages

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1060>

Personal Independence Payments: Inverclyde

909090 Ronnie Cowan (Inverclyde) (SNP) What proportion of appeals against personal independence payment awards in Inverclyde were successful in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016.

The Minister for Courts and Justice (Sir Oliver Heald)

In 2015, 52% of appeals against personal independence payment awards heard in Greenock were successful. Between January and September 2016, the latest period for which data are available, the proportion was 57%.

Ronnie Cowan

I thank the Minister for that catch-up on Greenock.

It is clear that a rapidly increasing number of constituents are losing their benefits, and subsequently winning their appeals. My constituents inform me daily that they are without benefit entitlements for eight to 10 weeks, and many are losing their

Motability cars as well. Does the Minister agree that sanctions should not be enforced until the appeals process has been exhausted?

Sir Oliver Heald

I think that the hon. Gentleman should view the position in context. The Government are spending £50 billion a year on supporting people with disabilities and health conditions, and the new PIP arrangements mean that 65% of PIP recipients with mental health conditions are receiving the highest rate; the proportion used to be only 22%. Overall, the system works, and the fact that there are appeals and they succeed shows that it works.

**Several hon. Members rose—
Mr Speaker**

Order. The question is about Inverclyde, from which New Forest West, North Swindon and Wrexham are a considerable distance away.

Sir Desmond Swayne (New Forest West) (Con) rose—

Mr Speaker

Well, all right—if the right hon. Gentleman can focus exclusively on Inverclyde.

Sir Desmond Swayne (New Forest West) (Con)

Indeed, Mr Speaker. The successful proportion would not matter nearly so much if the Minister could arrange for those appeals to happen a hell of a lot quicker, and if he can fix it in Inverclyde—well, I need not spell it out, Mr Speaker.

Sir Oliver Heald

My right hon. Friend makes the important point that justice delayed is justice denied, and it is important that cases are brought on quickly. We monitor them very carefully and provide extra days to tribunals as required, so he can be assured that we are not complacent about this.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-07/debates/EB7A5685-B940-4B4D-ADE8-24F99B917C9B/OralAnswersToQuestions>

Housing Benefits (18 to 21-year-olds)

Urgent Question John Healey (Wentworth and Dearne) (Lab) To ask the Minister if she will make a statement on the impact on homelessness of the Government's plans to remove automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18 to 21-year-olds.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery (Caroline Nokes) From 1 April, automatic entitlement to housing costs will be removed for some 18 to 21-year-olds. This is a Conservative manifesto commitment and it was formally announced as a Government measure in summer Budget 2015.

This policy removes a perverse incentive for young adults to leave the family home and pass the cost on to the taxpayer. This is about stopping young people slipping

straight into a life on benefits, and it brings parity with young people who are in work but who may not be able to leave the family home, while an unemployed young person can do so.

We have always been clear that this policy will have a comprehensive set of exemptions, to make sure that the most vulnerable continue to have the housing support that they need, so the policy will affect only those who have no barriers to work and who are unable to return safely to their parental home. In addition, there is a time-limited exemption for those who have recently been in work. The policy will apply only to those in universal credit full service areas who make new claims or whose earnings drop below the in-work threshold after that date.

The policy will be implemented at the same time as the new youth obligation, an intensive package of labour market support for young people from day one of their claim. With new support available under the youth obligation, more young adults will move into work, significantly improving their current living standards and future prospects.

John Healey

My urgent question—this concern is shared by Members on both sides of the House—was: what assessment has been done of the impact of the cuts on homelessness? With respect to the Minister, she has made a statement but she could have given a one-word answer, which is “none”. No impact assessment was published with the regulations on Friday. Why not? How many young people will now be denied all help with housing benefit? There are 1,741 18 to 21-year-olds in the Minister’s county of Hampshire claiming housing benefit. How many of them will still get help next month, and how many will get nothing?

The Minister may not have done an assessment, but the charities that work day in, day out to help the homeless in all our constituencies have done so. Centrepoin says that 9,000 young people will be put at risk of homelessness. Shelter says that

“there is no way this isn’t going to lead to an increase in rough sleeping.”

Crisis, which drafted the very important Homelessness Reduction Bill promoted by the hon. Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman), says that the policy “runs entirely counter” to the aims of that Bill, and that it

“could spell disaster for the many vulnerable young people rightly entitled to help.”

Surely the Minister does not think that those charities are wrong. If she knows they are right, surely the Government are not going to go ahead with these cruel and counterproductive cuts.

Members on both sides of the House have deeply held concerns about the rapidly rising level of homelessness in our country. Will the Minister accept that none of the arguments that she has made today or previously really stack up? She says that this is about levelling the playing field, but these young people, who are old enough to marry, work, pay taxes and fight for our country, will now be denied the same right as other British adults to basic help with housing costs.

Ministers have said that the exemptions will protect the vulnerable, but the National Landlords Association declares:

“Never mind the nuances, all landlords will hear is that 18-21 year olds are no longer entitled to housing benefit...they just won’t consider them as a tenant.”

Ministers have said that this will save money, but once the knock-on costs to other services are taken into account the saving will fall to only £3.3 million.

The Minister talked about the manifesto; it contained a commitment to remove the “automatic” entitlement. Claimants already have to pass multiple checks and tests, so there really is nothing automatic about young people getting housing benefit. Will the Minister recognise that the Government have the opportunity in tomorrow’s Budget to reverse this counterproductive policy? Will she leave the House this afternoon and tell the Chancellor that if he does so, he will have the fullest support not just from Opposition Members but, I suspect, from Members across the House?

Caroline Nokes

The right hon. Gentleman raised the issue of those across the country—he specifically mentioned Hampshire—who are already in receipt of housing benefit. They will have transitional protections and will not be affected. So when he asks how many in the county of Hampshire will have their housing benefit withdrawn, the answer is none, the same as for every county. He also raised the case of those who are serving in the armed forces, of taxpayers and of couples who have children. If he looked at the list of exemptions that was published on Friday, he would see that those are all included.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-07/debates/ADF15990-16CE-47DC-BAF7-C3FC1E8E99AA/HousingBenefits\(18To21-Year-Olds\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-07/debates/ADF15990-16CE-47DC-BAF7-C3FC1E8E99AA/HousingBenefits(18To21-Year-Olds))

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