

### **SCoD Bulletin**

Mid January 2017

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

### **SCoD Training**

The 2017 SCoD Training Programme is about to kick off with a Human Rights session from Carole Ewart.

There are only a few spaces left for the "Human Rights and Procurement" training taking place at the beginning of February. You have to be quick to get on our courses...

**Human Rights and Procurement** Training Session on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Go to <a href="http://www.scod.org.uk/public-procurement-and-human-rights-a-practical-training-session/">http://www.scod.org.uk/public-procurement-and-human-rights-a-practical-training-session/</a> for more information.

And remember, Early Bird tickets are available for the SCoD Conference on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. This year's conference is going to be bigger and better than last year and tickets are flying...



### **SCoD "Connect & Capitalise\*" Conference**

The third SCoD Conference, 'Connect & Capitalise' will take place on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

We will have 9 different workshops and <u>ContactSCOTLAND-BSL</u> is our main supporter.

Early bird tickets are now on sale at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scod-connect-capitalise-2017-tickets-29816166958">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scod-connect-capitalise-2017-tickets-29816166958</a>

We still have a couple of sponsorship opportunities available, if you are interested, please contact us on <a href="mailto:admin@scod.org.uk">admin@scod.org.uk</a> and a member of the events team will be happy to discuss!

\* This year's conference title "Connect and Capitalise" means that we are building on the connections and partnerships that have been made over the last three years and at our last two conferences. We all benefit or capitalise on these connections as we grow the Deaf Sector.

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### LATEST NEWS FROM SCoD

### Membership

2017 is going to be a great year for SCoD. We are about to start a yearlong celebration of our 90<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="kirsty@scod.org.uk">kirsty@scod.org.uk</a> or telephone 0141 248 2474.

If you are a BSL user, you can use contactSCOTLAND to contact us.

Best wishes
Janis & the SCoD Team

### **GENERAL NEWS**

# Deaf Sector Partnership Effecting change, equality & access for BSL in Scotland

### **DSP / BSL NAG Update**

The DSP is about to go through its first review of this funding period, as well as planning for the consultation on the BSL National Plan.

The BSL National Advisory Group has been working with the Scottish Government to develop an online tool for people whose first or preferred language is BSL so that they can respond to the consultation on the BSL National Plan more easily and in their preferred language.

The Minister for BSL, Mark McDonald MSP, has written to all the public bodies in Scotland about the development of the National Plan as well as notifying the public bodies that have to write BSL Local Plans that they need to start to think about how they will do this and how they will involve Deaf and Deafblind people.

If you have any questions about the BSL NAG or the DSP, please get in touch with Derek Todd, DSP Coordinator by email at <a href="mailto:admin@deafsectorpartnership.net">admin@deafsectorpartnership.net</a>.

Theresa May plans to take the UK out of the European Convention on Human Rights, according to new reports.

The Telegraph says that the Prime Minister plans to fight the 2020 election on a platform of leaving the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The PM

plans to "lift and shift" rights protections so people in the UK can only seek rights protections in UK courts.

To find out more, go to <a href="https://hrcscotland.org/2017/01/10/theresa-may-plans-to-take-the-uk-out-of-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-according-to-new-reports/">https://hrcscotland.org/2017/01/10/theresa-may-plans-to-take-the-uk-out-of-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-according-to-new-reports/</a>

### Benefits of watching films with care home residents

Researchers from the Universities of Dundee, Edinburgh and University College Dublin have been working on a project called 'Care Home as Cinematic Community: Enhancing Social Connectivity through Film'.

For more information, go to <a href="http://ssscnews.uk.com/2016/12/14/watching-films-care-homes/?gator\_td=jKDZNgKL7Hh7jd542cfVPriSPMa%2bbHT7ORF1HVDwOd3cXCI%2fiOS%2bPFmlkBOpnzTkFAWnhw8dEC0AwLzjovKJUyaMyDx8jGxMxuXTu4T%2fKjxlNc7VASghtKOiqtpbdlEtADj3gkVj4QL62znlblzt92ndW%2bnnown0LEptKccJpGl4RMr%2f33dXJn%2fZ3elNbu3ZKMtkCPliC6yYewGADfw6%2bkMplEDvYagMEITFoiCRw2cD4Ls0tjb8fQHVx8NB1U0T6fNl5Q3XbktsoyEhiGjB3g%3d%3d



### **Police Scotland Your View Counts**

The Police Scotland public consultation survey "Your View Counts" has been live since April 2016. This is the first time Police Scotland's public consultation is digital and represents a new way of us conversing with key stakeholders and communities.

This new process increases access and engagement with the communities we serve. We value the views of everyone from all backgrounds whether you live or work in the community.

Police Scotland will monitor responses all year round and will publish quarterly information on our website.

Analysis of survey results together with information from a number of other sources will help inform national and local policing plans.

The consultation process is not about comparing divisions or years it is to ensure our priorities take account of public views.

Public consultation is for you to tell us what is important to you in your community

- Your opinion is valued we need your opinion to help inform our policing priorities and service delivery
- Police Scotland is committed to listening to your views
- Survey is available online 24/7 via our website and only takes a few minutes to complete – www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts
- Results are published on our website.

Make sure you give us your views.

#YourViewCounts

#### **EVENTS**

### The Scottish Sensory Awards 2017

Wednesday 15 February 2017 Stirling Management Centre

Following the great success of the 2016 Scottish Sensory
Awards, we are delighted to host the 2017 awards with SCOVI, our sister organisation in the Visual Loss Sector. For more information go to <a href="http://www.sensoryawardscotland.co.uk/">http://www.sensoryawardscotland.co.uk/</a>

Nominations to the awards will be announced shortly...so watch this space!

For more information about the Scottish Sensory Awards, please contact us at scottishsensoryawards@gmail.com.

We still have several sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please contact Janis McDonald here at SCoD on <a href="mailto:admin@scod.org.uk">admin@scod.org.uk</a> or John Paterson at SCOVI on <a href="mailto:john.paterson@scovi.org.uk">john.paterson@scovi.org.uk</a>





### Celebration Event – Loving Lanarkshire Event Lanarkshire 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

Thanks to Big Lottery Funding Lanarkshire Deaf Club will be hosting a celebration event on Saturday 25th March. We are celebrating Loving Lanarkshire Deaf but we would like all Deaf and Hearing people to attend. I have attached a flyer for you to circulate.

I would like to invite you to have a table in our information hall to showcase your organisation. This will be held in Cathedral Primary School, 171 Milton Street, Motherwell, ML1 1DH. Setup of the information hall would be 12-1pm with the doors opening to the public at 1pm. We would also love to see you at the evening party afterwards in the Daisy Park Community Centre.

Could you please let me know if you as soon as possible if you are interested in having a table and if you would need a British Sign Language Interpreter to assist with communication?

Tel: No - 01698 268700 07941687534

Web: lanarkshiredeafclub.co.uk



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.

There is also the opportunity for you to drop by and listen to key speeches and live interviews, product and service launches in our Gathering theatre within the marketplace. And if all it gets too much why not take the opportunity to relax and get pampered in our stress-busting zone, or take a break and visit the wide range of catering, seating and networking areas for visitors to relax and enjoy.

#### It's not too late to join us!

There are still a few stands and discounted stands available. If you'd like to raise your profile at our exhibition & marketplace book your stand today.

#### 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.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and we'll see you in February.

SCVO Events Team

### Deaf friendly swimming open day Saturday 28 January 2017



I would like to share this upcoming event at Portobello Swim Centre!

Last year NDCS and Edinburgh Leisure partnered up to provide deaf friendly swimming sessions for young deaf people. Since then, Edinburgh Leisure has run regular classes for deaf children.

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, we are hosting a Deaf Friendly Swimming Open Day – for any new young people, their siblings and families to come try out. The Open Day starts at 1pm, with the first swim session at 1:30pm. There are different 30 minute sessions available, including swimming lessons and parent & child swim sessions.

It is free to attend, all you need to do is book your name down. To do this, please email Laura Fallen, Swim Co-ordinator at <a href="mailto:laurafallen@edinburghleisure.co.uk">laurafallen@edinburghleisure.co.uk</a>

At the open day there will be representatives from Edinburgh Leisure, NDCS, East of Scotland Deaf Children's Society and Deaf Action – giving information about groups and support available for deaf children and families

### Moving On REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene course



### **Tuesday 31 January 2017**

'Moving On' supports young deaf and hard of hearing people aged 16-25 living in Scotland's Central Belt to have a smooth transition into employment, training, education, work experience and volunteering. The team of Employment Advisers, who are all fully deaf aware and use BSL to a high standard, provide a person centred service that supports each young person to achieve their full potential.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 'Moving On' is running a one day REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene course. This course covers how to stop the spread of bacteria, kitchen hygiene, personal hygiene and how to stop food poisoning. At the end of the day participants will receive a recognised certificate. The course is free, lunch and communication support is provided. The day will start at 9.30am and take place at Action on Hearing Loss Scotland offices, Empire House, 131 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2RX

If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending the course, or receiving support from 'Moving On' please contact us

Email movingon@hearingloss.org.uk

Phone 0141 341 5350 Mobile 07436 267402



### 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

### **Friday Club**



So we have a few guest speakers coming along to the next 3 Friday Clubs:

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January British Deaf Association: Deaf Roots and Pride
  - Aimed at Deaf children and young people (aged 8-20 years) who are transitioning from primary to secondary education or from secondary education to external environments. It will provide Deaf mentors who will support Deaf children and young people to build confidence and increase their participation in school, social activities and within their families
  - o https://www.bda.org.uk/drp-team
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March Action on Hearing Loss: Moving On service
  - The Moving On Service works with young deaf people aged 16-25 and explores potential options into work and further education following high school. This session will let you find out more about the service and ask questions on how it can help you
  - https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/movingon.aspx

The Friday Club runs from **6:30pm – 8:30pm at Deaf Action, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY**. Usually the Friday Club is open only for 14-18 year olds, but if you are interested in attended any of these, we can be flexible!

If you would like to put your name down or have any questions, please get in touch

### **Getting to Know GIRFEC Workshops 2017**

Following the Supreme Court Ruling on the Named Person Legislation and the success of our latest workshops, the ALLIANCE is providing further "Getting to know GIRFEC" events across



#### Scotland.

These will be held in the following locations:

- Aberdeen: Friday 27th January 2017, 1.30pm 3.30pm
   Venue: Cafe Coast, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, AB24 5HP
- Edinburgh (morning): Monday 13th February 2017, 10am 12pm
   Venue: Meeting Room 7, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG
- Edinburgh (afternoon) Monday 13th February 2017, 2pm 4pm
   Venue: Meeting Room 7, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG
- Stirling: Friday 10th February 2017, 10am 12pm
   Venue: Volunteer Scotland, Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ

These Training the Trainer workshops are aimed at Third Sector organisations working directly with children, young people and parents. The workshops will bring participants up to date with Scottish Government policy and actions following the Deputy First Minister's statement on the Named Person to the Scottish Parliament in September. Participants will be equipped to cascade information to children, young people, parents and colleagues about:

- The Named Person
- Wellbeing
- The Child's Plan, and
- Plans to update the law and to put it into place.

Workshops and the resources will be available **free of charge**. Please note, these workshops are very likely to be oversubscribed and **early registration is advisable**.

The workshops will be facilitated by Ronnie Hill, The ALLIANCE Associate Director and Third Sector Implementation Advisor, Scottish Government GIRFEC Team.

**Book your place via <b>Eventbrite**. Please also advise us of any accessibility requirements



### Signed Burns Supper 28 January 2017

The National Deaf Children's Society is hosting a signed Burns Supper on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, 7pm till late at the Blythswood Hotel in Glasgow. To watch the promotional video – go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IENI5wq7UNM&feature=youtu.be

You can also find the information on the NDCS, Scotland Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NDCSScotland">https://www.facebook.com/NDCSScotland</a>

Hope you can come along to our Burns supper night and bring a few friends along.

### **TRAINING**





### Scottish Council on Deafness with Carole Ewart

### **Public Procurement and Human Rights**

Friday 3rd February 2017 at 1.00 pm – 4.45 pm Venue – Glasgow City Centre – to be confirmed

For more information, go to <a href="http://www.scod.org.uk/public-procurement-and-human-rights-a-practical-training-session/">http://www.scod.org.uk/public-procurement-and-human-rights-a-practical-training-session/</a>

### 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!

For more information and to register your place visit:

www.baaudiology.org/events/calendar/baa-north-east-regional-study-day-2017

# SSC Course 19: Understanding and Supporting Friendships amongst Children with Additional Support Needs



### Thursday, 26th January 2017

This course is suitable for all professionals working with children or young people with additional support needs, and their families.

How important are friendships for children's development, mental health and quality of life?

How can all children, including those with additional support needs, be supported to develop positive and reciprocal friendships?

We will explore recent psychological research into children's friendships, with a particular focus on children with additional support needs. We will consider the role that children's social, cognitive and language skills play in friendship development, but also discuss the influence of school environment and the wider community. Practical ideas on how to support the development of children's friendships at different ages will also be explored.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- to understand the characteristics and benefits of friendships for children at different ages.
- to consider the factors within school and the wider community that can influence the development of children's friendships.
- to explore research into friendships for children with additional support needs such as autism, Down's syndrome, visual and hearing impairment.
- to reflect on how the development of children's friendships can best be supported from preschool through to adolescence, as well as the practical challenges involved.

**Presenter:** Dr Katie Cebula, Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Course Fee: £110

Applications are available to download from the following link:

# SSC

## SSC Course 21: Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder - basics to management: Tuesday, 28th February, 2017

scottish sensory centre

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

British Sign Language

**Academy of BSL** 

At the Academy of BSL in conjunction with Hands2sign, you will find a warm welcome and a professional delivery of all levels of BSL tuition. Our courses follow the BDA curriculum and learners will have access to Signworld's superb 24/7 on-line resources We have two new iBSL certificated BSL Courses starting in January 2017 and we are already taking bookings so find the right course for you and secure your place.

British Sign Language (BSL) Studies Level 1 Starting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017



Want to learn a new and transferable skill that will allow you to communicate with other BSL users or as part of a programme of study or professional development? If so, get your hands moving, because this Level 1 Award in British Sign Language (BSL) Studies is just right for you.

### British Sign Language (BSL) Studies Level 6 Starting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Finished your iBSL Level 3 or NVQ 3/4 and thinking of a career in the Deaf Community? The iBSL Level 6 is the course you need.

We are delighted to say we will be running the Level 6 course starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and it is a must for anyone who intends becoming an Interpreter, CSW, or other position working with native BSL users.

For more information or to book your place, call on: 0141 248 8315

Email: info@academyofbsl.co.uk

Website: http://www.academyofbsl.co.uk



### 2017 Deaf and Deafblind Awareness Training Dates

This 2-day course is a practical and nationally accredited course that will bring benefits to your clients and your organisation right from day one. This course will help you to have a better understanding of deaf people, their language and communication needs. It will show you can help break down the barriers for deaf people in practical ways which cost nothing, whilst making your service more accessible not only to deaf people, but anyone who has a communication difficulty or for whom English is a second language. Using DVD presentations, fun activities and group interaction to reinforce the factual content, this course is of practical value to all agencies serving the public and an invaluable part of individual continuous professional development.

30th & 31th Jan 2017

27th & 28th Feb 2017

27th & 28th Mar 2017

24th & 25th Apr 2017

29th & 30th May 2017

26th & 27th June 2017

28th & 29th Aug 2017

25th &26th Sep 2017

23rd & 24th Oct 2017

20th & 21st Nov 2017

18th & 19th Dec 2017

Course Times: 9.30am – 4.30pm on both days

<u>Location:</u> Tayside Deaf Hub, the Old Mill, Taymills, 23 Brown Street, Dundee, DD1

5EF.

Cost: £135 per person inclusive of exam fee, lunches, refreshments

#### **Course Content**

- Language choices and differing cultures of deaf people
- How common is deafness
- Over coming barriers, improving attitudes
- What does deafness mean and the correct terms to use
- Tinnitus and help available for Tinnitus
- Barriers to communication
- Communication tactics
- · Hearing Aids and technology which helps
- Professional communication support for deaf people

For more information please contact Alana Harper from Deaf Links:

Tel: 01382 201077 Text: 07711462385

### **CONSULTATIONS**



**UK Government Consultation:** 

The Work, Health and Disability Green Paper

The deadline for responding to the consultation is **Friday 17 February 2017**.

The government has launched a consultation on its newly published green paper 'Work, health and disability: improving lives'.

The green paper – which aims to achieve 'a more personalised and integrated health and welfare system' – proposes:

- a review of statutory sick pay and GP fit notes to support workers back into their jobs faster, and for longer;
- encouraging Jobcentre Plus work coaches to signpost claimants to therapy;
- reform of the work capability assessment with a view to ending the binary 'can work / can't work' groups;
- a new Personal Support Package;

- encouraging employers to work with their employees with long-term health conditions to stop them from falling out of work; and
- a wide-ranging debate about recognising the value of work as a health outcome

To read the green paper, go to <a href="http://192.168.1.1/login/login.html">http://192.168.1.1/login/login.html</a> or go to the Scottish Government website <a href="http://www.gov.scot/">http://www.gov.scot/</a> for more information about the consultation and for information in Easy Read, go to the website: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives%20">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives%20</a>

The BSL version of the consultation is available here <a href="https://www.youtube.com/oops">https://www.youtube.com/oops</a>

SCoD will be putting in a response. If you are a member of SCoD and would like your comments included in our response, please email Mandy at <a href="mailto:mandy@scod.org.uk">mandy@scod.org.uk</a> before **Wednesday 1st February 2016**.

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**



There is still time to apply to the Voluntary Action Fund's £16,000 Competition Fund to enable schools, parent councils, charities and community groups to run arts activities on the theme of "What my \*mother means to me..." Each successful applicant can nominate their 2 favourite pieces to be judged at events in March with 6 prizes available.

Organisations, working in Scotland with children aged 10 - 11yrs, can apply for up to £400 to cover activity costs e.g. tutors, sessional workers, art materials, equipment or transport. Children may choose to work individually, in pairs or small groups to produce their chosen art. They can choose to: write a 500 word essay, write a poem, make a short film, use photography or produce a piece of artwork.

Applications for funding should be submitted by Monday 16 January 2017.

Please visit our <u>website</u> for further information about the fund and how to apply.

### **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: <a href="http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/appdownload.html">http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/appdownload.html</a>

### PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, MOTIONS AND DEBATES



### S5M-03297 Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Union)

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

In a matter of months, it is likely that the United Kingdom Government will invoke article 50 of the Treaty on European Union and trigger the process of the UK's departure from the EU. The UK Government also remains committed to repealing the Human Rights Act 1998 and replacing it with a British bill of rights.

However, it seems the Prime Minister intends to go even further. What is now in prospect is not just an attack on the Human Rights Act 1998; Theresa May wants to turn her back on the world's most successful human rights treaty—the European convention on human rights. She plans to make pulling the UK out of the ECHR a central plank of the 2020 Tory manifesto. That is, of course, shocking—but not surprising from a PM who, as Home Secretary, spoke so publicly about her desire to scrap the 1998 act.

The Foreign Secretary claimed in the aftermath of the EU referendum that the UK Government is not intent on "pulling up a drawbridge" or pursuing a policy of

"isolationism", but, where our fundamental rights are concerned, that seems to be exactly the agenda that is being pursued. We should be in no doubt—in this chamber, in this Parliament and across Scottish society as a whole—that dragging Scotland out of the EU and the attempts to undermine fundamental human rights safeguards will have profound implications for our country.

This Parliament will need—indeed, will want—to address those potential impacts in detail. We will wish to speak out on the implications for the wider world of the UK Government's attempt to remove Scotland from the EU against the will of the Scottish people and to undermine the ECHR. It is essential that we stand against each and every threat to the rights and freedoms of the people of Scotland.

### Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (LD):

Will the cabinet secretary confirm whether the Scottish Government will be prepared to back the UK Liberal Democrats' call for a Brexit deal referendum, which is potentially our best chance of stopping the process altogether?

### **Angela Constance:**

I am tempted to say that Mr Cole-Hamilton seems to have a bit of a fixation with referendums. The serious point is that there is some considerable distance to travel and much water to go under the bridge, and we have a UK Government that has yet to show its hand on the detail of the negotiations that it will pursue. Given the outcome of the previous UK referendum, whereby, despite the will of the Scottish people, we now face the prospect of being taken out of the EU against our will, I suppose that the Scottish Government would be concerned that that risk may remain in the event of another UK-wide referendum.

It is essential that we stand together against every threat to the rights and freedoms of people in Scotland. In doing so, we will confront matters ranging from employment rights to human trafficking, from non-discrimination to data protection and from the rights of disabled people to the loss of vital funding for civil society and the third sector. We will continue to press for an immediate end to the scandalous disregard shown by the UK Government for the rights and interests of non-UK citizens from the EU and the European Economic Area. I am talking about fellow citizens who live and work and have made their homes here in Scotland—fellow citizens who are being treated as what have been termed "bargaining chips" by UK Government ministers. That is an intolerable situation.

Today's date is of symbolic importance. On 10 January 1946—71 years ago—the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened not in Geneva or in New York but at Westminster central hall in London. It did so in an age when the UK Government understood that it had a duty to act for the greater good and to be a positive force in post-war efforts to promote human rights and achieve closer international co-operation. It played a leading role in establishing not only the United Nations but the Council of Europe, and it was very much at the heart of the human rights work of both institutions, including the development of what has become the world's most influential human rights treaty—the European convention on human rights.

That work was founded on common values that prioritised human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Those post-war

values have been a defining influence not only in the context of the UN and the Council of Europe, as the same fundamental principles and protections are at the very heart of the European Union. That point deserves emphasis. It reveals something important about where Scotland, as a nation, has chosen to take its stance in both the EU referendum debate and the major fall-out since.

The principles that have grown to define the European Union resonate with Scotland's sense of self and the values that we espouse. In its actions and its attitudes, Scotland is a country that locates itself not where geography has placed us—on the periphery of a continent—but at the heart of a progressive vision for Europe. If the seismic events of 2016 have communicated a message to us all, it is surely that the bonds that unite progressive nations must always be greater than the issues that divide us.

European Union law and European institutions have been instrumental in promoting equality and human rights across all member states. Sometimes, that has meant learning from and reflecting UK best practice, and sometimes it has challenged us all—including in Scotland—to go further and try harder. Yet, that progressive European vision is now at risk. Expert evidence that has been given in this Parliament and elsewhere makes it clear that the removal of obligations that are set down in European law could open the door to the erosion of protections that we have come to take for granted.

In the field of employment law, the EU guarantees core rights and protections for workers, including rights to paid holidays and maternity leave, limits to working hours, the right not to be discriminated against and health and safety protections. Such safeguards are fundamental to our vision of a fair and equal Scotland that delivers on social justice and inclusive economic growth. That is why we have argued for employment legislation to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Respect for private life is a human right. It is protected by a range of international treaties, including the ECHR. EU law has made a particular and important contribution in the context of data protection.

We must also recognise that global concerns are Scotland's concerns, too. A notable example is the achievements that have been made in confronting human trafficking. Trafficking is an intolerable abuse of human rights and it is prohibited by the ECHR and other international instruments. EU law enhances and extends that core framework by establishing minimum rules, which require victims of trafficking to be given assistance, support and protection.

To read the rest of the debate, go to <a href="http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10722">http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10722</a>

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Treatment Waiting Times)** 

S5F-00727Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab):

To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to reports that hundreds of children with mental health problems have waited more than a year for treatment.

### The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):

It is unacceptable that any child has to wait a lengthy period for mental health treatment. The Minister for Mental Health has been very clear with health boards that it is not good enough if there are falls in their performance or if children are experiencing long waits.

This is not intended to take away from my previous comments, but progress is being made. According to figures for the latest quarter, the number of patients who waited more than 52 weeks has decreased. I have said much in this chamber before about the importance of mental health care, and no doubt I will say much more in the weeks and months ahead. There is much to be done, but progress is being made.

http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10726



### **Personal Independence Payments**

908078 Corri Wilson (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock) (SNP)
I am afraid that many of my constituents have been refused home
assessments for personal independence payments, and others have been
unable to have their assessments recorded at home with the DWP. Given that
it was recently reported that 61% of 90,000 claimants who appealed against a
PIP decision at the tribunal period up to September 2016 won their case, will
the Minister today commit to a root-and-branch review of the assessment
process?

#### **Penny Mordaunt**

Although we are consulting on ESA, the Green Paper consultation affords us the ability to look at PIP assessments in the round and at a person's whole journey. I have previously said that we are looking at what more we can do in recording assessments. If the hon. Lady knows of cases where people need home assessments and they are not getting them, I urge her to flag them up with me.

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-01-09/debates/4EDAEB04-6E9F-438F-B5F2-04D833160CD6/Contracted-OutHealthAssessments



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