

INTRODUCTION

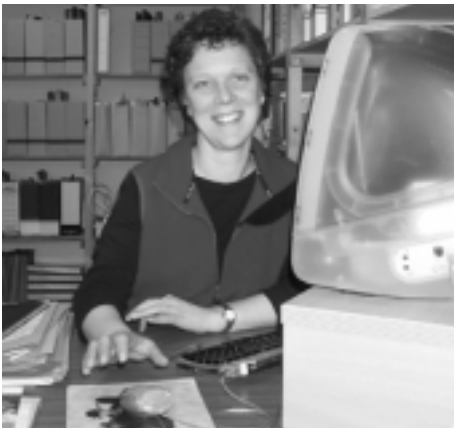
In this edition of Partners in Progress we have news about the Sense Scotland award which was presented to Dr John and Mrs Sheena Tulloch. At the presentation chairman Roy Cox gave, as always, a very personal and moving tribute. He described the vision of parents of deafblind children. Roy said that his vision was for Sense to be around to support deafblind children and adults when the parents were gone. That I think is the core of what we do. Behind organisational structures and services is support for children and adults.



Of course Roy's dream could never have become a reality without all of the many supporters we have. Your support allows us to put in place the pieces to build Roy's dream.

John Brody

GETTING ORGANISED



We have been working with Glasgow colleagues at pamis (profound and multiple impairment service) to develop a personal organiser for people who depend on support service provision. The organiser aims to help them keep records of the many people who can be involved in delivering services. People using services can open a file on any individuals who work to support them. The file could hold:

- pictures and contact details of people (such as the GP, a d v o c a t e , teacher or care manager)
- summaries of meetings about them and their planned questions to ask at the next meeting

- their copy of any plan that service providers have made with them

It is easy to forget the detail of what was said at a meeting, especially if the information is all held in your head. And when people are moving between services and from child to adult provision, there can be more people involved that you can know! The personal organiser is where all of this information can be filed and easily picked up when you need to remember something or have an appointment with a service provider.

Work on the personal organiser has been funded by Glasgow City Council Learning Disability Services. The personal organisers are being piloted at the moment with about 12 users of services across the city. Researchers from Glasgow University will be involved in finding out how useful they are and what changes we could make to improve them.

If you want to know more about the development and pilot of personal organisers or want to try using one, call me at head office.

Linda Long

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Over the last ten years we have been fortunate enough to receive a number of grants from BBC Children in Need. Currently we are in the final year of three year funding for the Early Years Advisory project.

As I'm sure most of you know, Friday 17th November 2000 was Children in Need Day and along with a number of other voluntary organisations we were invited to attend a practitioners seminar entitled The Pressures of Voluntary Activity. BBC Scotland brought together representatives from different voluntary organisations which have received grants, to share experiences and identify common problems and solutions. The main purpose of the seminar was to help BBC

Scotland better understand the current issues faced by voluntary organisations in raising funds to support what appears to be an increasing demand for services.

The afternoon also provided an opportunity, as a group, to meet with Ken McQuarrie, Head of Scottish Services, BBC Scotland. He is involved with the commissioning and production of programmes. This allowed the group to identify ways in which the issues affecting children with special support needs and their families could be better reflected in the programme output of BBC Scotland. Hopefully, over the next year you'll see some of our ideas reflected on screen.

Once the seminar had finished we moved on to the fun part of the day – the face of Children in Need we're all most familiar with, the events linked to the television appeal. This is the only day of the year when the BBC is open to the public so you can imagine that by early evening the building was full of people in all sorts of guises – all there with the one purpose, to hand over the money they had raised and, of course, have fun.

The evening events also had a more formal content with a buffet attended by members of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, the Scottish Children in Need and Appeals Advisory Committee, the Scottish Management Board of BBC Scotland and Jack McConnell, Minister for Education and Children. This again provided an opportunity to share some of the experiences and issues facing children with special support needs and their families.

Besides being able to experience the work of BBC Scotland and Children in Need at first hand, our hope from this day would be that the seminar will not remain as a one off event but will have strengthened the ongoing working relationship between voluntary organisations such as ourselves and BBC Scotland, Children in Need and the Scottish Minister for Children. In this way we can begin to establish a forum in which the issues faced by children with special support needs and their families can be raised and addressed through television, radio and the Scottish Parliament.

We're all aware of the power of Children in Need in raising income to support children's services. Attending this seminar highlighted for me the importance of the BBC's role in raising issues within the general public but also at a government level.

Linda Annan
Assistant Director

THE SENSE SCOTLAND AWARD

The Sense Scotland Award is for very special occasions. It has been awarded only once before in 1989 to Sister Ailish Massey on her retiral as head teacher at Carnbooth School for deafblind children in Glasgow. In February 2001, we were delighted to make the Award again, this time to Dr John Tulloch and Mrs Sheena Tulloch, both of whom have made a significant contribution to taking Sense Scotland to where it is today. As well as a specially commissioned art piece completed splendidly by the Smart group the honour was given to John and Sheena for their:

Special and long-standing contribution, both as individuals and as a family, to the establishment and development of Sense Scotland; an

improved understanding and awareness of deafblindness and multi-sensory impairment in the wider community; the recognition of the unique needs of and development of services for families and people who are deafblind or who have multi-sensory impairment.

John was the chairman of our first Executive Committee and Sheena has been a trustee and vice chairman. Both, of course, have done much more than that. Thank you John and Sheena.



PROFILE ON MURRAY FARQUHARSON



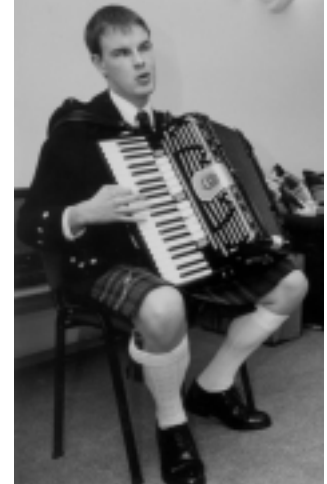
When people first hear about Sense Scotland and the deafblind people we work with, quite often their response is "the poor dears, it must be awful, I don't suppose they can do much for themselves". Murray Farquharson is an excellent example of what a deafblind person can achieve, particularly when the appropriate support and opportunities for development are provided.

Murray has been blind since birth and profoundly deaf since aged seven, but his tenacity and lust for life means that he has never allowed his disabilities to hold him back. He lives in his own flat

in Dundee where Sense Scotland enabler staff provide daily support to assist Murray with his busy schedule.

On 28th May 2000, Sense Scotland participated in the "Boots Across Scotland" Munro Challenge, which aims to have walkers on the summit of all 284 Munros in Scotland.

In conjunction with the Glasgow Junior Chambers of Commerce, walkers raised funds for Sense Scotland and Boots Across Scotland. Murray climbed Meall Buidhie, supported by his own staff, a member of Boots Across Scotland and members of Sense Scotland's Practice Development Department. The weather was foul on the day, but Murray was euphoric at reaching the summit, delighted with his achievement and ready to climb Ben Nevis the next day! He learned more about plant life on the mountains, about walking on uneven and boggy paths and that snowballs can be thrown in summer! The Practice Development Department began thorough planning and preparation for the walk three months prior to the event, ensuring that the day went smoothly.



Murray is an accomplished musician playing both the keyboard and accordion. Murray and his accordion are a well known sight in the Dundee area, he has played with many recognised artists and is regularly invited to play at functions and events. Last year Murray recorded his own CD of traditional accordion music including a track he had written himself. The CD is now on sale through Sense Scotland, raising funds not only for Sense Scotland but also for two other charities.

Murray's next venture will be to raise money by playing his accordion at venues and donating the proceeds to charity. This has been made possible through a grant from the Deafblind UK Millennium Awards.

Not only will Murray's performances raise money for charity, they will help to raise public awareness of deafblindness, as Murray himself says,

"People are amazed that a deafblind person like me can play the accordion".

Murray is pretty amazing himself and there are many others like him whose talents, abilities and achievements prove that disabilities can be overcome. Sense Scotland is committed to finding new ways to help deafblind people achieve their full potential.

Mairi Morrison
Funding Development Officer

POEM by anon

Music he loves - singing along
The words he never seems to get wrong
That was his life in a hospital ward
Just singin along so he didn't get
bored
Each Friday night - off to the concert
Even though he didn't really enjoy it
He lacked opportunity - the need to
get out
Challenging they labelled him - when
he'd scream and shout
And then he moved out!

Auchtermuchty his home - support
provided by Sense
Caring folk acting in his best interest
Plenty to do and lots of choice
At last he seemed to have found his
own voice
The chance to get out - he'd just love
to go

But don't call it a concert - call it a
show!
"Fancy going out?" she asked "Come
on lets go"
"A trip to Glenrothes - we'll take in a
show"
If she said a concert - he may just have
shouted
But she said a show - he was highly
delighted.
Charlie Landsborough he saw - he
clapped and he sang
And laughed at his jokes - he was such
a nice man
Singing along he could do just the
same
But now he could put a face to the
name

And on the way home he had a fish
supper
Wow! What a night - roll on another!

SERVICE GROWTH - PROVIDING BETTER CARE



Sense Scotland was formalised as a voluntary organisation over 15 years ago. In that time we have expanded in a major way to support deafblind children, adults and their families all over Scotland. As we have grown we have developed and built up an expertise in the field of communication. Because of this we now also work with people who have impairment to sight, impairment to hearing, learning disability, physical disability or any combination of those.

As a result we continue to grow and expand in order to contribute to improving the lives of deafblind children and adults. There are three main levels where we are working. We

are working to support individuals. This can take the form of the Advisory Team who have regular contact with children and families, and try where possible to visit people in their own home.

We continue to build services to support children and adults in their own homes and communities wherever possible.

We have recently been working with children in what is called the "Transitional period". This refers to children aged between 14 and 18. During these years the lead agency in their care package changes from education to social work. As a result of these changes problems can often appear due to lack of familiarity with the persons needs. Our aim is to provide additional support to meet the needs of those young adults.

A second level is what we would term larger services. These are usually three

or four person community houses, or community day services. In addition to improving the quality of our existing services in these areas we are looking to set up new services in particular parts of Scotland. Areas where we are currently looking at include Angus, Aberdeen City, Dundee and Glasgow. We will keep you informed as to how these proposed areas emerge.

And on a third level, we are continuing to develop services that will enhance the opportunities of the children and adults that we work with. For example we are building on the successes in the arts work to provide opportunities to more people. The Scottish Arts Council grant of £178,362 will allow us to recruit staff and provide resources that will make a real difference.

We continue to fund and expand the Holiday programme and hope to take three groups on holiday this year.

We have seconded 2 members of staff to work with our Advisory Team, with Pat Brown in Glasgow and Jackie Reid in Dundee for six months. As well as being a help to Pat and Jackie and the people they work with it will be of benefit to the secondees. Their skills in working with families will be boosted and it will complement their work when they return to their normal posts in six months.

The growth of these services would not have been possible without your support and the support of others. We hope that through Loud and Clear and Partners in Progress we can give you a full picture of our work. If however there is any area where you wish more information, or would like a visit to see at first hand what we do please call me.

John Brady

CHARITIES AND THE LAW

The advent of the Scottish Parliament has at long last created an opportunity to take a serious look at legislation regarding the Voluntary Sector in Scotland. The Parliament has set up a Scottish Charity Law Review Commission, chaired by Jean McFadden. The commission has been looking at the structure of regulation and support for the charitable sector and examining for example should there be a single agency in Scotland, similar to the Charity Commission in England, to regulate and licence charities.

The commission has also been examining the requirement to protect

the public and ensure high standards among charities. Training for staff, trustees and volunteers are all being looked at along with the provision of adequate information and advice to the general public.

Sense Scotland has made its views known to the commission through two charity representative organisations, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers Scotland. The commission is expected to report to Parliament in May and will be debated in full, with possible legislation introduced some time in the future.

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