

APPENDIX C
PROPOSAL FOR ACCESS — SENSE SCOTLAND

**Proposal for access for research into the use of outdoor activities with adults
who have multi-sensory impairments**

Submitted: 25/10/99

Copies to: Paul Hart, Head of Practice Development Department
Susan Stewart, Head of Residential Services
Sylvia Watson, House Manager

Introduction

This is to request permission for access arrangements to be granted for research being carried out with clients from Flat One, Old Brook. The research is part of my PhD, I have previously completed an honours degree in Outdoor Education in the Community at University of Strathclyde. I have worked for Sense Scotland for over two years and am currently working as a Social Tutor (nights) in Flat One. In this proposal I will briefly outline the direction the research is taking, then detail the type of activities for which access is required along with a description of the data collection methods. Finally, access to data collected and the issue of client confidentiality will be discussed

Direction of Research

I initially proposed to investigate the use of outdoor education in special schools with children who had been classified as having mild learning difficulties. Since starting to work with the service users at Old Brook however, I began to notice the benefits that the hill-walking days and certain aspects of the service user holidays appeared to have. Also after some reading in the area I found that adults with multi-sensory impairments are not a well-researched group in professional or academic literature,

and this is especially so in the field of outdoor education. I therefore shifted focus and am now investigating the benefits of the use of outdoor education activities and techniques in the provision of recreational, educational and therapeutic opportunities for adults with multi-sensory impairments. The research will focus on these experiences, and how service users' respond to them - in terms of progress in communication, health and personal and social development – this may be gauged using video-analysis. The use of video-analysis will itself be evaluated, not just as a tool of social science, but as a visual medium through which people with multi-sensory impairments may act as expert witness to their own experience.

Initial discussion of my plans took place with Paul Hart, Head of the Practice Development Department, Susan Stewart, Head of Residential Services and Sylvia Watson, House Manager. Observations from recent service user holidays to Bendrigg Lodge Outdoor Centre were then used to generate categories which have been complemented by observations from hill-walking sessions. It is hoped that these observations will be the basis of a paper in *The Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*. The video footage from the client holidays has been used to identify good and bad practice in the use of the video and may provide material for further analysis. Since the outdoor holidays, two service users have started to use the climbing wall as part of their daily programmes and this has led to many further observations. The culmination of these initial observations was the presentation of a workshop at the 1999 Deafblind International Conference entitled, 'Using outdoor activities to build and sustain relationships with and amongst adults with multi-sensory impairments'.

Access Required

It is intended to collect data from a number of sources. All of the activities being researched will be part of the clients' weekly programmes or future activity holidays. The main source of data will be the regular use of the climbing wall by two of Flat One's service users, this will be contrasted with observations of selected activities within the service users flat. The data collected would include participant observations from the researcher, observations made by other staff members, gained

by informal and possibly formal interviews and video footage. Video footage of the client holidays has already been collected by staff and more would be gathered on any future activity holidays. The collection of video footage from the climbing wall sessions would be structured and may vary in focus from client to client. It will be collected by an Outdoor Education student from Jordanhill Campus who would have no direct client contact and merely be operating the camera under my direction. The footage collected from the home environment would ideally contain both structured and unstructured elements; this would be collected by Sense staff. All the footage collected would be subject to a variety of analysis methods and may also be used in the presentation of findings.

Data Access/Client Confidentiality

All the original video footage taken would remain the property of Sense Scotland and upon the completion of the research would be returned to them. The footage taken from within the flat will only be collected from the shared areas of the flat and will not include any intimate care. Access to the video footage by other professionals would have to be arranged by prior agreement and any footage to be used in presentation would also be cleared prior to use. Copies of any reports or case study notes relating to the outdoor activities of the clients will be sent to Paul Hart, Susan Stewart and Sylvia Watson. Any material for publication, such as papers and possibly photographs, will be first forwarded to the 'Information Working Group' at head office for approval. This research will also be subject to the approval and scrutiny of The University of Strathclyde's Ethical Advisory Committee.

Parental Consent

Parental consent will be sought for all those service users who are involved with this research. A draft of the letter to be sent to individual parents is appended to this proposal.

Dissemination of Information

As mentioned above, the initial observations have already been presented at the 1999 Deafblind International Conference, and it is hoped that, with the information

working group's approval, an initial paper will be submitted for publication. It is intended that the research will generate a number of papers, as well as the final thesis, which will be targeted at journals such as: Talking Sense; The British Journal of Special Education; Culture, Sport and Science. A copy of the completed thesis will also be made available to Sense Scotland.