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Issue #14



Welcome!

In this edition of Care and Connect, help us choose our Employee of the Year for 2023, read our 2023-26 Strategic Plan, and discover our upcoming events. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk.

In this issue...

- Read an update about the COVID-19 Inquiry
- Help us choose our Employee of the Year
- Celebrate our total raised at the Glasgow Kiltwalk
- Read our 2023-26 Strategic Plan
- Discover our upcoming events

COVID-19 Inquiry

Sense Scotland has been approached by the COVID-19 Inquiry to request voluntary production of evidence. The evidence will outline the key issues and impacts experienced by all stakeholders as a result of COVID-19. We're currently planning how to respond and will keep you updated.

Staff and Volunteer Awards 2023

It's that time again - our Staff and Volunteer Awards are coming up in September, and we need your help to choose our Employee of the Year - an outstanding individual that has had a significant impact on the lives of the people we support and their family members. If you or the person you care for would like to nominate a member of staff, you can nominate them online at bit.ly/3M6LVOe. You can find a printable version at bit.ly/3loPIW9, and an Easy Read version at bit.ly/41N7CZF.

Glasgow Kiltwalk

We are thrilled to announce that we have raised over £13,000 as a result of last month's Glasgow Kiltwalk - and money is still coming in! Thank you to all who donated, especially to our fantastic walkers who made us very proud. If you would like to support us by signing up for one of the three remaining Kiltwalks this year, visit sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

Strategy 2023-26

We are excited to share with you our 2023-26 strategic plan, built to tackle the challenges of operating in a post-COVID world and navigating the ongoing social care crisis. The plan reaffirms our dedication to being innovative and aspirational and ensures that the people we support, their families, and our staff are at the heart of our strategic aims.

Our six strategic aims are as follows:

- Establish Sense Scotland as a leader in the provision of specialist services for people with complex communication support needs associated with learning and/or sensory disabilities.
- Ensure our social care services are sustainable and evolve to meet demand.
- Support carers to access breaks and explore new short break models.
- Deliver programmes and projects to enhance the lives of people with communication support needs and their families across Scotland.
- Generate new and sustained sources of income.
- Nurture social care leaders of the future and value, recognise and reward our staff and volunteers.

You can view the full strategic plan for yourself at sensescotland.org.uk/who-we-are/strategic-plan.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots

Our weekly toddler group for children under 5yrs who have complex communication needs continues every Thursday from 10am - 11:30am throughout June at TouchBase Glasgow. It provides a fun safe environment for children to express themselves through singing, dancing and exploring sensory-based activities at their own pace. To join, contact our Early Years team at earlyyears@sensescotland.org.uk.

Connect for All

Connect for All is a session at TouchBase Dunbartonshire for anyone with a communication support need arising from a range of disabilities and their families (including siblings). We have invited Maureen Malcolm-Gourley from Music for All to come along and provide a relaxation sound bath session as well as a drumming session. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/3M2DXFT.

Aberdeen Kiltwalk

Want to get in on the Kiltwalk action after hearing about last month's Glasgow event? Luckily, there are three more happening this year - with the next occurring in Aberdeen on Sunday, 4 June, followed by Dundee in August and Edinburgh in September. Sign up for free at sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

Connect and Play Sessions

We have a couple of Connect and Play sessions happening throughout June at TouchBase Glasgow (11 June) and TouchBase Ayrshire (18 June). These sessions offer a range of fun activities for children aged 0 – 12 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings and family. Drop in between 10am and 1pm or contact advisory@sensescotland.org.uk for more info.

Summer Fayre

TouchBase Dunbartonshire is hosting a Summer Fayre on Saturday, 24 June between 2pm and 4pm. Come along for a range of crafts, home baking and raffles to celebrate the start of summer! All proceeds go towards purchasing rebound therapy equipment for TouchBase Dunbartonshire. For more information, contact the TouchBase on 0141 772 5588.

Environmental Arts Sessions

Our Arts Tutors Amy (Dundee) and Imelda (Glasgow) are hosting a number of Environmental Arts sessions throughout June. These are perfect opportunities for people with communication support needs to explore the great outdoors and make art in the process. To see a list of our upcoming sessions, visit bit.ly/3W3s9b2.

Please let us know what you think of Care and Connect. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk.