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Issue #16



Welcome!

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- Find out about the CCPS's 4 Steps to Fair Work Campaign
- Get involved in the BSL National Plan 2023-29
- Discover Compass, an online transition tool
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Deafblind Awareness Week

Deafblind Awareness Week took place at the end of June into early July. The week is a time to celebrate the achievements of all people who are deafblind and raise awareness of deafblindness.

To mark the occasion, we sent out a very special issue of Touching Base - our newsletter for professionals in health and social care - focusing on deafblindness. The issue featured a fantastic article written by Jacky Smith and Paul Hart in our Operational Support Team, relating to Sense Scotland and our links to deafblindness.

If you are interested in Sense Scotland's roots in deafblindness and how we work with other organisations to progress the understanding of deafblindness, you can read the article at sensescotland.org.uk/deafblind-awareness-week-2023. You can also sign up for future issues of Touching Base at bit.ly/touching-base.

4 Steps to Fair Work

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland (CCPS) recently launched their 4 Steps to Fair Work, which aims to ensure that social care staff are properly rewarded and recognised and that the people they support can thrive by getting the support they need.

The initiative aims to influence the Scottish Government to take 4 Steps to Fair Work for social care staff and announce a timetable for investment. The 4 Steps are:

- 1. Deal with pay inequality:** As a first step, implement the promise of a minimum of £12 per hour for social care staff, starting from 1 April 2023.
- 2. Ensure equal pay for equal work:** Apply pay uplifts to staff in all services, not just those in registered adult social care.

3. Value all staff who play their part: Deliver funding packages that value the crucial role of support staff and managers, alongside frontline workers.

4. Give us hope of equality: Publish a timetable by this September to deliver fully on Fair Work in Social Care by 2025.

You can find out more about the campaign at bit.ly/4-steps-to-fair-work.

BSL National Plan 2023-29

Do you have views on how BSL should be advanced in Scotland? The Scottish Government are seeking the opinions of BSL users to develop their BSL National Plan 2023-29. You can give your views on the BSL National Plan at bit.ly/bsl-national-plan.

Scottish Transitions Forum – Compass

The Scottish Transitions Forum, which is a national network committed to improving the experience of children and young adults (14 to 25 years) with additional support needs as they make the transition to young adult life, has recently launched Compass - an online tool to guide young people, parents and carers, and professionals supporting them through the transition to young adult life. Compass offers three different versions:

- The **young people's version** helps young people work out what matters to them, and share their views with others. It gives them important information aimed specifically at them, and is likely to be most useful during the time leading up to transition.
- The **version for parents and carers** is intended to be used before, during and after the move into adult services, to support the transition process and keep things on track. It provides tailored information at the relevant time and reminders of key actions through transition and beyond.
- **CompassPro** is designed to help professionals and practitioners provide the best support possible to each young person and their family.

It enables a better understanding of statutory duties, and links to information that can be tailored to each family's needs.

You can find out more about Compass and sign up at bit.ly/compass-change-made-easy.

Train the Trainer

We were excited to learn recently that People Management, the UK's leading HR media brand, were interested in writing an article on how we have developed our in-house 'train the trainer' programme for moving and assisting people with very specific, complex and individual needs. A key benefit of this programme is being able to provide a very tailored service with an individual stance, which is especially important for the people we support who have a wide variety of complex needs.

For the article, People Management interviewed Rachael Ferguson, Learning & Development Partner at Sense Scotland, about her role in developing the programme. You can read the article at bit.ly/sense-scotland-train-the-trainer.

Upcoming Events

Arts Summer Programme - TouchBase Lanarkshire/Glasgow

We are delighted to announce that we will be delivering free arts sessions for children, young people and adults with communication support needs in TouchBase Glasgow throughout August.

These sessions will be a mix of arts, music, and Sensatronic workshops, with sessions specific to different age ranges. To view the full list of events, visit bit.ly/3Y5qkLN for TouchBase Lanarkshire sessions and bit.ly/3O0bstl for TouchBase Glasgow sessions.

Sensatronic Lab Open Sessions

Our free Sensatronic Lab sessions for people with learning disabilities and communication support needs will continue at TouchBase Fife and Glasgow throughout August. These sessions offer the chance to get involved in our experimental art, music and tech project. To find out more and book your slot, visit bit.ly/3NwwLQn.

Twinkle Tots - TouchBase Glasgow - Every Tuesday from 15 August

Our weekly toddler group resumes on Tuesday, 15 August from 10am - 11:30am. The group is suitable for children aged 0-5, and includes nursery rhymes, storytelling and sensory play.

Online Connect and Play - Tuesday, 1 August - 10am - 11am

This will be a great opportunity to meet other families from across the country, share what you have been doing over the summer holidays, and join in with some singing and dancing. Book now at bit.ly/43Aidlr.

Connect and Play - TouchBase Glasgow - Sunday, 13 August

Drop into TouchBase Glasgow any time between 10am and 1pm and take part in some sports day activities! These sessions are suitable for children aged 0-12 with communication support needs, their siblings and family, and offer the opportunity to catch up with Sense Scotland advisers and meet other families. Book now at bit.ly/3XXNwvg.

Online Coffee and Connect - Wednesday, 23 August - 10am - 11am

Join us online for a catch-up and a cuppa. Coffee and Connects are a great way to catch up with our advisors and other parents and carers from across the country. Book now at bit.ly/3DnzKJc.

Connect for All - TouchBase Ayrshire - Sunday, 27 August

Our Connect for All sessions are for anyone with a communication support need arising from a range of disabilities, as well as their siblings and family. We will be joined by Caitlin, our Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead, to

deliver some fun sports day activities. Drop-in any time between 10am and 1pm. Book now at bit.ly/3rFy2Qw.

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