

September 2023

Issue #18



Welcome!

In this issue...

- Read an important update about Ardlui House
- Find out about the winner of our Christmas card competition
- Discover new items in our Christmas shop
- Hear about recent Care Inspectorate visits
- Take part in the next See Hear Strategy consultation

Ardlui House

Over the past 12 months, delivering our children and young people's respite service, Ardlui House, in Helensburgh, has become increasingly challenging. There are several reasons for this, including the availability of suitably qualified staff in the local area, increased building maintenance costs, and a reduction in bookings. As a result of these challenges, the service made a significant loss in 2022/23 and is budgeted to make a similar loss in 2023/24.

Sense Scotland has taken the difficult decision to end the delivery of respite at Ardlui House in March 2024. We appreciate that this news is disappointing, but thanks to support from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, who have agreed to subsidise the service for all children and young people, Ardlui House will continue to operate until 31 March 2024. This will provide time for us to work with staff and each family to understand families' needs, identify alternative provision, and facilitate transitions, as well as explore redeployment opportunities for staff.

He's a winner!

A huge congratulations is in order for Sandy McIndor, whose fabulous "Robin" was the winning design in our 2023 Christmas card competition. Sandy is supported to live independently by our team in Glasgow, and his entry was supported by Gayle Calderwood in our Arts team. Sandy was presented with his certificate and prize, with proud dad Alister and sister Jen in attendance. "Robin" is now available to buy on our online Christmas shop - more information below! - at bit.ly/sandy-robin.

Open for business

Can't wait for Christmas? Neither can we! That's why our online Christmas Shop is now open, fully stocked, and ready for business. From Mecoco scented candles to unique, handmade gifts, we're sure you'll find something you love. You can also get free delivery for orders over £40, or collect from TouchBase Glasgow. By purchasing from our online shop, you not only

support our charity, but also people with disabilities who contribute their skills and talents. Visit our shop now at bit.ly/sensechristmas.

Care inspections

As things have mostly returned to normal this year, we've received a number of visits from the Care Inspectorate to our services across the country to make sure they meet our high standards. As a result, our Operational Support Team have been looking closely at the results of these (and previous) visits to identify key areas for improvement. Taking on board these suggestions, we were very happy to hear that three of our services - Clydebank, Children and Young People's Services in Glasgow, and TouchBase Fife - recently received 'Good' or 'Very Good' grades from the Care Inspectorate over the last few months.

See Hear Strategy

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are currently running a lived experience survey on behalf of the Scottish Government, which is for adults aged over 18 years old with sight, hearing, deafness, or deafblindness challenges (separate consultation will be done with children, young people, and their families). The survey will inform the next See Hear strategy, which aims to improve the lives of people with sight, hearing, deafness, and deafblindness challenges. If you fit the criteria above or support someone who does, please visit bit.ly/seehearstrategy.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots - TouchBase Glasgow - Every Tuesday

Our weekly toddler group continues on Tuesdays between 10:30am - 12pm. The group is suitable for children aged 0-5, and includes nursery rhymes, storytelling and sensory play. Book your slot at bit.ly/twinkletots.

Create, Make and Play – TouchBase Glasgow - Sundays

This weekly programme at TouchBase Glasgow provides weekend activities for children aged 4-9 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings, family, and teachers working with families. Book your free place at bit.ly/3LiHoJ2.

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