

March 2024

Issue #24



Welcome!

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- Find out about the re-opening of the Independent Living Fund
- Get excited by an update from our Fundraising team
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International Visit

This month, TouchBase Glasgow had a visit from two lecturers and a student at the University of Hawaii and the University of Tokyo, who wanted to come and learn more about Sense Scotland and what we do. We were lucky enough to have our Support Practitioner Jamie on hand to help translate and introduce the range of services we offer, the number of people we support, and the number of staff we employ.

Our visitors were extremely impressed and had the opportunity to try Scottish delicacies (Irish Bru and Tunnock's Tea Cakes) before learning about how we are funded and hearing from Gillian and Heather in our Early Years team whose knowledge and experiences will be particularly helpful for the Tokyo student's thesis.

It was a brilliant experience to share experiences and information about how people with additional needs are supported across the world, and we were extended a very kind invitation to visit the University of Hawaii in the future. Arigatou to our visitors for a wonderful day.

Independent Living Fund

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) was a government fund intended to help disabled people live an independent life, and which closed in 2015. In September 2023, we learned from First Minister Humza Yousaf that the fund would re-open on a phased basis this year. This will enable up to 1,000 people with complex needs to access vital support and live independent lives.

Applications for the ILF will re-open in April, and in preparation, ILF Scotland staff are working with disabled people, their representative organisations, the Scottish Government and other key stakeholders on the co-production of the re-opened fund. In the meantime, you can find out more about the ILF at www.ilf.scot, including answers to frequently asked questions.

Fundraising Opportunities

Sense Scotland is a charity. Many of our services rely on funding from trusts, foundations and the public. We need to raise at least £1million every year. Can you, your family, friends or employer help? To find out more about our fundraising activities and opportunities, please sign up to our fundraising newsletter at bit.ly/sense-scotland-fundraising, give the team a call on 0300 330 9292 or email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.



Ladies' Lunch 2024

Join us for our Summer in the City Ladies' Lunch on Saturday, 15 June at the one and only Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.

Scottish singer, columnist and television presenter Michelle McManus will host and perform at one of our favourite days in our event calendar.

Guests will enjoy a fizz reception on arrival, a two-course lunch, a sweet treat and a host of fundraising activities to make our summer lunch sizzle.

Missed out on a ticket to Take That in May? Don't fret – enjoy the music of one of the UK's biggest boybands with Re-Take That, who will be providing us with an afternoon of classic tunes.

Book your tickets now - while you can! – at sensescotland.org.uk/ladies-lunch.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at

fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

Application Support Sessions – TouchBase Ayrshire

We are delighted to announce a number of support sessions for people who wish to apply to work at Sense Scotland but who may require some help with their application. We currently have events in place in May and June at TouchBase Ayrshire, with more to be added soon. Find out more at sensescotland.org.uk/work-with-us.

Aberdeen Kiltwalk – Sunday, 2 June

Places for the first Kiltwalk of the year in Glasgow are now all sold out, but you can still get involved in the remaining three and raise funds for Sense Scotland! The first of these will take place in Aberdeen on Sunday, 2 June, where you can take part in the Mighty Stride (18 miles) or the Wee Wander (4 miles). Sign up for free at sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

Twinkle Tots – Online – Every Tuesday, 10:30am – 12pm

Twinkle Tots is our Early Years team's weekly online toddler group for children aged under five with additional support needs. Sessions will start up again on Tuesday, 23 April. Book your free slot at bit.ly/twinkle-tots-online.

Early Years and Family Advisory Events

We also have a number of exciting upcoming events for children and young people with communication support needs, held by our Early Years and Family Advisory team. Stay tuned to our Facebook page at facebook.com/sensescotlandcharity for more information.

[SERVICE NEWS GOES HERE]

Please let us know what you think of Care and Connect. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk. You can find older issues at sensescotland.org.uk/care-and-connect.