

April 2024

Issue #25



Welcome!

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- Read about our Malawi project as it comes to an end
- Learn about PHEW, a new subsidiary of Sense Scotland
- Join us in wishing goodbye to our Director of Operations, Brian Murphy
- Get involved in our Paradise project
- Share your views on a proposed bill to establish a Disability Commissioner for Scotland
- Receive an update from our Fundraising team
- Join our upcoming events
- Read news from your service

Malawi Project

This year, our Malawi project came to a close after five and a half years. The Scottish Government-funded project aimed to challenge stigma and discrimination against disabled children and ensure they can access education. In all areas, it exceeded expectations:

- We identified and supported 7,891 children with additional needs to access education
- We trained 12,315 community leaders to achieve an understanding of children with additional needs and the rights of all children to a relevant education
- We trained 7,156 teachers with the skills to adopt inclusive education practices within their classrooms
- We trained 6,112 parents and carers to achieve an understanding of their children's ability and right to go to school

For our website, Malawi Project Coordinator Karen Goodman-Jones reflected on the project over the past half-decade. You can read the blog and find out more about our project in Malawi at sensescotland.org.uk/malawi.

PHEW

We are excited to announce that, from May 2024, PHEW – a residential short break service for people with learning disabilities, based in Motherwell – will become a subsidiary of Sense Scotland.

The PHEW Board has decided to become a subsidiary of Sense Scotland to ensure the sustainability of the service, and to benefit from the support and infrastructure that a large social care organisation such as Sense Scotland can offer. PHEW will retain its identity and continue to operate as a registered charity.

A number of Sense Scotland Trustees will join with some of the existing PHEW Board members to create a new PHEW Board that will make decisions in the best interests of PHEW, its staff, the people they support and their families.

Sense Scotland remains committed to offering respite and short breaks services for people who need it most, and with PHEW becoming a subsidiary of Sense Scotland, we will be able to expand our offer of these services to the families we support.

We look forward to shortly welcoming PHEW as a subsidiary of Sense Scotland and supporting their staff to continue to deliver high-quality, accessible, and flexible short breaks to people with complex needs. In the meantime, you can find out more about PHEW at phewrespice.org.uk.

Goodbye to Brian Murphy

We are wishing our Director of Operations, Brian Murphy, all the best as he moves on to explore new opportunities and challenges. Over the past 10 years, Brian has been a great servant to Sense Scotland, and his presence around TouchBase Glasgow will be sorely missed.

Please remember, if you have any issues or concerns about the service the person you care for receives, please contact the Registered Manager of the service to discuss. If you are unsure of how to contact the Registered Manager, please call 0300 330 9292 or email info@sensescotland.org.uk and someone will assist you.

Paradise Project

What does paradise look like to you? That's the question our Arts team are asking with their brand new, 'Paradise' project, encouraging the people we support to create artwork illustrating what paradise means to them.

Paradise can mean many things – for the people we support, it might be a day at the beach, a Doctor Who exhibition, a supermarket, or something else entirely! Luckily, our Arts team have put together example ideas and resources to get you started on our website at sensescotland.org.uk/paradise. Please encourage the people you care for to get involved in our Paradise project by sending their artwork to paradise@sensescotland.org.uk by Saturday, 31 August 2024.

Disability Commissioner for Scotland Bill

The Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill has been introduced by Jeremy Balfour MSP to establish a Disability Commissioner for Scotland. The Commissioner's primary purpose will be to promote and safeguard the rights of disabled people, and would be expected to:

- Advocate for disabled people at a national level, promoting awareness and understanding of the rights of disabled people
- Review law, policy and practice relating to the rights of disabled people
- Promote best practice by service providers and may also promote, commission, undertake and publish research on matters relating to the rights of disabled people
- Have the power to undertake investigations into devolved matters if the issue relates to disabled people

Jeremy Balfour MSP is asking for members of the public to share their views on the proposed Bill. This call for views will be the last opportunity for you to influence the process. If you wish to express your views, you can do so until **Friday, 17 May** at bit.ly/disabilitycommissionerbill.

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.

Loud and Clear – Spring 2024

Read all about it! Our Spring 2024 edition of Loud and Clear, our supporters newsletter, is out now. In this issue, learn more about the people we support and the people who care for them – our amazing staff - and meet:

- Best pals Isaac and Ian
- Rock star Francis
- Duke of Edinburgh adventurers Rohan, Amy and Ryan
- Tom the builder
- Storyteller Linzi
- Employee of the Year, Leeanne

The issue also features a statement from Sense Scotland CEO Angela Bonomy on the overwhelming value of our staff, and what you can do to help the ongoing crisis in social care, including emailing your MSP.

You can read the issue online at sensescotland.org.uk/loud-and-clear. If you would like to receive a printed copy, please email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk with your address.

TouchBase Open Days

Our Fundraising team are putting on three open days at our Glasgow, Dunbartonshire and Ayrshire TouchBases. All of our families are invited to join us on the following dates to take a look behind the scenes, find out more about what goes on, meet staff and the people we support, take part in some fun creative activities and enjoy some refreshments:

- **TouchBase Glasgow – Thursday, 9 May, 1pm – 3pm – RSVP by Thursday, 2 May**

- **TouchBase Dunbartonshire – Wednesday, 15 May, 1pm – 3pm –**
RSVP by Wednesday, 8 May
- **TouchBase Ayrshire – Friday, 7 June, 1pm – 3pm –** RSVP by
Friday, 31 May

Please contact Wendy Kyle at wendykyle@sensescotland.org.uk or on 0300 330 9292 by the dates above if you would like to attend.

Upcoming Events

Connect and Sensory Play – Thursday, 16 May – Abbeyview Community Centre

Our next Connect and Sensory Play session at Abbeyview Community Centre in Dunfermline will take place on Thursday, 16 May, from 10am – 12pm!

Drop-in anytime and see the wide range of sensory toys we have on offer and take part in our fun activity of the day. The sessions are available for parents and carers with a child aged 0-18 with additional or complex needs. Children and their siblings are welcome to come along.

If you would like more information, please email LindaMitchell@sensescotland.org.uk or call us on 01592 646015.

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. 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.