

Care and Connect *for families*



April 2025 Issue #37



Welcome!

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- Read about a change to our **Executive team**
- Fundraise your way with **40 Ways for Sense Scotland**
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- Check out our **upcoming events**
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Our Royal Visitor

Earlier this month, on Thursday, 10 April, we were absolutely thrilled to receive a visit from our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, to kick off our 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Upon arriving at TouchBase Glasgow – which the Princess officially opened in 2008 – HRH received a tour of the recently refurbished building, observing a music session with the people we support, meeting learners in our Learning Hub, and speaking with members of the Glasgow Family Forum, before cutting a cake specially made for the occasion. Before leaving, the Princess Royal received two gifts: a piece of glass art created by Ann Neeson, who we support at TouchBase Glasgow; and a unique Mecoco candle made just for her, with a buttery, shortbread scent and a Sense Scotland tartan label.

As the Princess waved goodbye, our 40th Anniversary party continued, with the people we support enjoying food, dancing, and socialising with their families and friends. Parties have been taking place in our services across the country, and we've been so thrilled to see the people we support, their families, and staff all have so much fun.

To see photos from the visit and from our birthday parties which followed, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/sensescotlandcharity.

Executive Team

Last month saw the departure of David Donnelly, our Director of Finance. David was with Sense Scotland since September 2019, and was only ever meant to be with us for a short time. The fact that he stayed for over five years must say something!

David played a major role in stabilising and rebuilding our Finance team during the early days of COVID-19, all while working remotely. He will be missed by all and left with our good wishes.

It is a very financially challenging time for many organisations, and Sense Scotland is no exception. That's why we're delighted to announce that we've appointed a new Director of Finance, Keith Notman, who started on Tuesday, 22 April. We look forward to telling you more about him in the near future.

40 Ways for Sense Scotland

We're very excited to announce our #40WaysForSenseScotland campaign! We are calling on our supporters to help mark our 40th Anniversary by getting creative and raising funds for the people we support in unique ways, relating to the number '40'. For example:

- Walking a mile a day for 40 days
- Cycling 40 miles in 40 hours
- Walking over 40 miles as part of the Kiltwalks
- Raising £40 (or more)

If you or someone you know wants to take part in #40WaysForSenseScotland, get in touch with our Fundraising team - they'll be able to help you raise funds and get a donation page set up. Email the team now at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

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 2025

Tickets for our Ladies' Lunch are still available! Join us on either Saturday, 31 May or Sunday, 1 June at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow for a 1980s-themed 40th birthday celebration with fizz, fun, friends and family, hosted by Edward Reid and featuring Glaswegian drag sensation Miss Bella Houston. Book your tickets now at sensescotland.org.uk/ladies-lunch. We can't wait to see you there!

Aberdeen Kiltwalk

The next Kiltwalk will be held in Aberdeen on Sunday, 1 June, where you can enjoy the beautiful sights of the city and shire, and take on 18 or 4 miles in support of Sense Scotland. To find out more, and grab your free entry code, visit sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

40th Anniversary Ball

Glitz and glamour more your thing? Why not join us at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on Saturday, 15 November and celebrate our 40th Anniversary in style. Enjoy a wonderful event hosted by top host Alex Fleming, with platinum, gold, and silver tables to choose from. Book now at sensescotland.org.uk/anniversary-ball.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots – Every Wednesday, 10:30am – TouchBase Lanarkshire

Our weekly toddler group for children aged 0 - 5 with additional support needs continues at our TouchBase in Lanarkshire (43 Leys Park, Hamilton). Book your tickets at <https://bit.ly/twinkle-tots-25> or email advisory@sensescotland.org.uk to find out more.

Connect and Play – Sunday, 11 May – Pollok Park

Come along to our drop-in session at Pollok Park in Glasgow and take part in spring-themed activities! These sessions are suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings, and family. Due to outdoor activities, old/waterproof clothes are recommended. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/connect-play-pollok-park-april-25.

Coffee and Connect – Tuesday, 27 May – The Burrell Collection / Pollok Park

Join us at the Burrell Collection / Pollok Park for a catch-up and a cuppa, suitable for parents and carers of people with additional support needs. This is a great opportunity to speak with other parents and carers, along with Sense Scotland's advisors. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/coffee-connect-burrell-april-25.

Connect and Play – Saturday, 31 May – TouchBase Lanarkshire

Join our Early Years team's Connect and Play session at TouchBase Lanarkshire, suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings, and family. Please make sure to wear old clothes as there will be some messy play activities. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/connect-play-TBL-april-25.

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

You can find past issues at sensescotland.org.uk/care-and-connect.