

Care and Connect *for families*



June 2025 Issue #39



Welcome!

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Update on Industrial Action Ballot

On Wednesday 25 June, we received the outcome of the Unite the Union industrial action ballot. Of those eligible to vote, 58% returned their ballot. Of the 58%, 70% were in favour of strike action and 73% were in favour of an overtime ban.

We are disappointed; still, we understand the Union feel this is an effective way to raise awareness of low pay within the social care sector. We agree that £12.60 per hour does not appropriately reward the commitment or recognise the responsibility that our support practitioners demonstrate every day. However, the Scottish Government, not Sense Scotland, set the Social Care Rate at £12.60, thereby determining the funding we receive to pay our staff.

We await further information from Unite the Union about their intentions. Please be assured that we have developed contingency plans to minimise the impact of industrial action on the people we support and their families. We will keep you informed of developments.

Your Opportunity

National charity Family Fund has grants available for families in the UK caring for a disabled or seriously ill young adult aged 18 to 24, who is living at home.

Grants range from digital devices, membership to a club, sports equipment, education materials, or even a musical instrument– whatever is needed the most.

Eligible families are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible to gain support, while funding is available.

Check out Family Fund's website for more details: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/your-opportunity>.

Employee of the Year

Our Staff and Volunteer Awards are due to take place again this October! Like previous years, we need your help to choose our Employee of the Year - an outstanding individual that has had a significant impact on the lives of the people we support and their family members. If you or the person you care for would like to nominate a member of staff, you can nominate them online at bit.ly/SAVA2025employee. Nominations close at 5pm on Friday, 22 August.

Ladies' Lunch

Saturday, 31 May was a major date for Sense Scotland - we celebrated our 40th Anniversary Ladies' Lunch at the voco Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow! The event, presented by Edward Reid,

was packed to the brim with retro décor and activities, including 'Play Your Cards Right', 'Edward Reid's Generation Game', and 'Hungry, Hungry Hippos'.

Guests also had the opportunity to hear from Matthew Ward, who has been supported by Sense Scotland for over 25 years, in an armchair conversation with Arts Tutor Dave Stephen. To close the night, Matthew - who has a regular slot on Sunny Govan Radio - performed a DJ set which had the whole room on the dancefloor.

Our 40th Anniversary Ladies' Lunch raised over £30,000 thanks to our very generous guests, and we're thankful to everyone who got involved - whether you were there on the day or bid on our online auction. The Fundraising team are already planning 2026's event.

You can see photos from the day at www.sensescotland.org.uk/ladies-lunch/.

More than Words: Communication for All

Recently, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and supporters launched a new campaign calling for a right to communication for all. Communication for all means sharing information in a way that everybody can understand. It includes all forms of communication – written, online, phone calls, and face-to-face. Inclusive communication is a gateway to accessing all of our human rights.

Yet for too long, people in Scotland have not had a clear legal right to inclusive communication. This leads to a postcode lottery when it comes to communication support, and significant inequalities for people. Everyone should have a right to communicate in a form they understand – to access health and social care when they need it, attend education or work, and participate in society.

To find out more about the ALLIANCE's 'More than Words' campaign, go to www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/more-than-words-communication-for-all/.

Sensory Toy Library

If you have a child with additional support needs and are looking for activities to do this summer, consider our Sensory Toy Library!

We know that finding activities during the summer holidays can be challenging, especially for parents and carers of people with additional support needs. Our Garden of Evan Sensory Toy Library is suitable for people with additional support needs aged 19 and under, and allows for free borrowing of sensory toys. Toys can be taken home and played with in the event of poor weather, and we have many different types available.

For more information, please contact our Early Years and Family Advisory team at advisory@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.

Kiltwalks

Two down, two to go – the Glasgow and Aberdeen Kiltwalks are over, but free spaces are still available for the Kiltwalks in Dundee and Edinburgh! The Dundee Kiltwalk will take place on Sunday, 17 August, with two distances to choose from (the 20-mile Mighty Stride and the four-mile Wee Wander). After that, the Edinburgh Kiltwalk will take place on Sunday, 14 September, with three distances to choose from (the 20-mile Mighty Stride, the 11-mile Big Stroll, and the five-mile Wee Wander). 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 – Saturday, 5 July – TouchBase Lanarkshire

Come along to our drop-in session at TouchBase Lanarkshire from 10am – 1pm and take part in summer-themed activities! These sessions are suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings, and family. Due to messy activities, old clothes are recommended. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/connect-play-tbl-july-25.

Connect and Play – Saturday, 19 July – TouchBase Ayrshire

Come along to our drop-in session at TouchBase Ayrshire from 10am – 1pm and take part in summer-themed activities! These sessions are suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with communication and sensory support needs, their siblings, and family. Due to messy activities, old clothes are recommended. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/connect-play-tba-july-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.