

Care and Connect for families



July 2026 Issue #52



Welcome!

In this issue of Care and Connect...

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- Read an update about our recent **pay ballot**
- Celebrate our first-ever **Learning Hub graduation**
- Take part in our upcoming **fundraising events**
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Perceptions Art Exhibition

We are excited to announce that submissions for Perceptions, our upcoming art exhibition in Glasgow, taking place in October, are now open! Perceptions will encompass artwork that explores the themes of fantasy, nature, time, colour, and emotion.

For this exhibition, we are welcoming submissions of artwork created by the people we support from all across the country. There is no right or wrong interpretation of the theme - whether you paint, draw, print, sculpt, create digitally, use photography, textiles, collage, or mixed media - we want to see work that reflects your unique perspective and creative voice. The artwork does not need to be created from scratch during this period – we welcome all artwork, as long as it hasn't previously been shared at one of our exhibitions.

We have created a form which allows Sense Scotland staff members to submit the artwork of the people we support for this exhibition. If your loved one is keen to submit artwork for this exhibition, please speak to their support staff or encourage them to work with their support staff to submit this work via the form. The artwork does not need to be created from scratch during this period – we welcome all artwork, as long as it hasn't previously been shared at one of our exhibitions.

We hope to showcase a wide variety of work created by the people we support all across the country, so please do encourage your loved one to get involved and submit work that fits the theme! Please note that submissions must be made by **Monday, 31 August 2026**. Any work that is not chosen for this exhibition may be shown at a future exhibition instead.

Further information about the date and venue of this exhibition will follow.

Pay Ballot

Earlier this month, we received the very welcome news that our recent pay ballot had been accepted by Unite the Union members, and that a two-year deal (for 2026/27 and 2027/28) had been agreed. The deal reflects what is affordable for Sense Scotland; we are forecasting another deficit for this year, and our sector continues to experience significant funding challenges. Nevertheless, we are grateful for our positive relationship with Unite the Union, and that pay negotiations this year have concluded earlier than in recent years.

The conclusion of the pay deal doesn't mean that we're now sitting back and accepting the social care pay rates set by Scottish Government; we know the rates are still too low, and, with CCPS colleagues, continue to lobby and campaign, and are taking the opportunity to explain the pay and funding challenges and present solutions to new MSPs and Ministers.

Learning Hub Graduation

Earlier this month, Glasgow City Chambers hosted a graduation ceremony for members of our Learning Hub – an individualised programme funded by Glasgow City Council's Glasgow Communities Fund and aimed at school leavers, aged 18 – 21, with additional support needs. This event marked the first time since the foundation of the Learning Hub in 2023 that a cohort of learners finished the programme and graduated.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of the six learners who have now graduated from the Learning Hub. During the ceremony, the graduates - accompanied by their families, fellow learners from the Learning Hub, and Sense Scotland staff - heard from members of Glasgow City Council, Sense Scotland Chief Executive Angela Bonomy, and Curriculum Delivery Lead Leonie Bryson, before receiving certificates and watching a video that had been made specifically for the occasion.

After the ceremony, the graduates and their guests were invited to attend a celebration at TouchBase Glasgow, where they enjoyed food, refreshments, and lots of dancing, thanks to a live DJ performance provided by Matthew Ward. Everyone at Sense Scotland is very proud of our Learning Hub graduates, and we look forward to seeing what they go on to do next.

Congratulations to Carly, Gavin, Jonathan, Keira, Mark and Zaid on their incredible achievements.

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.

Psychic Night

Norah Howie is back! Join us on Thursday, 3 September at Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry (2-4 Govan Road, Kinning Park, G51 1HS) as Norah, one of the most celebrated psychic mediums in Scotland, delivers messages of love and comfort in aid of Sense Scotland. This event includes a floor show, raffle, and a chance to purchase products made by Mecoco, our charitable enterprise. Tickets are £20 per person, £110 for a table of six, and £150 for a table of eight. You can book now at sensescotland.org.uk/psychic-night.

Highland Fling

Our Fundraising team are excited to be offering an all-new event this year: the Highland Fling! On Sunday, 6 September, you can take on either the Killie Zip - zipping through the trees and across the River Garry in the stunning valley of Killiecrankie, Perthshire – or the Highland Swing - the first purpose-built, permanent swing platform from a bridge in Britain – while raising vital funds for Sense Scotland. For those of you outside of Perthshire, our team will be running a bus transfer from Glasgow on the day. To find out more and sign up, visit sensescotland.org.uk/highland-fling.

Sensational Lunch

Tickets are selling fast for our Sensational Lunch on Saturday, 3 October - another unforgettable afternoon at the voco Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow, complete with spectacular entertainment, live music, a fizz reception, a two-course meal, and activities that'll put the 'fun' in 'fundraising'.

This year, we're excited to welcome Trisha McCluney, AKA Essentially Cher, bringing the magic of the legendary Cher to life, delivering a breathtakingly authentic experience. We're also delighted to be welcoming back our very good friend Edward Reid, who will be bringing his iconic blend of cheeky banter, musical prowess, and fabulous outfits as he once again takes on hosting duties.

Book your tickets now at sensescotland.org.uk/sensational-lunch.

Upcoming Events

Car Boot Sale – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Saturday, 1 August

Come along to TouchBase Lanarkshire (4 Leys Park, Hamilton, ML3 9EQ) between 9am – 12pm to grab yourself a deal at our car boot sale! If you're interested in booking a spot, get in touch with us on 01698 422280 or email GMcGrory@sensescotland.org.uk or BethMcDougall@sensescotland.org.uk.

TouchBase Fifestival – TouchBase Fife – Tuesday, 25 August

Staff and people we support at TouchBase Fife are excited to announce their 'TouchBase Fifestival'! Taking place at TouchBase Fife (Wilson Avenue, Kirkcaldy) on Tuesday, 25 August from 11am – 2pm, the festival will include music, and arts and crafts stall, a bake sale, and lots of fun games – all to raise funds for the TouchBase's sensory garden. Please note that this event will be cash only, and limited parking is available.

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.