

Care and Connect *for families*



August 2026 Issue #53



Welcome!

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Safe to Grow, Supported to Shine

This year, we're partnering again with Big Give as part of our Safe to Grow, Supported to Shine campaign, which focuses on the role of our Learning and Development team, who provide staff with specialist skills and knowledge to support people with complex care and health needs to live their best lives. You can be part of this campaign by pledging to donate to Sense Scotland by 5pm on Friday, 28 August – and your donation could be doubled as a result. For example, this means that by pledging to donate £200 now, you could help raise £400 for the people we support.

You don't need to pay anything now – at this point, we're just looking for a promise. To find out more, please visit www.sensescotland.org.uk/big-give. Please share this link with anyone you think may wish to become a pledger – and help us make double the difference today.

Friends and Family Survey

Your experiences and feedback are vital in helping us to shape and improve the social care services we provide to families like yours. If you haven't already, please consider completing our friends and family survey, which asks you to comment on your experience of the service between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026. As a small thank you for your time, **everyone who takes part will have the chance to be entered into our prize draw for a £50 Tesco voucher**. Your input really can make a difference—thank you for helping us improve.

You can complete this survey at bit.ly/ffsurvey26 or by scanning the QR code on the postcard you should have recently received – or will receive soon – from Sense Scotland. The image below may be helpful when determining which service your family member attends.

			
Lynn Jones Head of Operations (Central)	Linda Reid Head of Operations (West)	Karen Leonard Head of Operations (Glasgow and East Dunbartonshire)	Eileen Keddie Head of Operations (North and East)
• Day Support Services for Children/Young People (Annmarie Carson) • TouchBase Glasgow Adult Support Service (Groups) (Rita Gallagher) • Learning Hub (Rita Gallagher) • Maryland 1 (Susan Farquhar) • Maryland 2 & Govan (Susan Farquhar) • Strathbungo (Mo Maclean) • Pollok (Mo Maclean) • Mossspark (Mo Maclean) • West Dunbarton Day Opportunities and Home Support (Shirley McGill) • West Dunbarton Supported Living (Shirley McGill)	• Saltcoats 1 (Sarah Julian) • Saltcoats 2 (Sarah Julian) • Irvine (Sarah Julian) • Largs (Sarah Julian) • Airdrie 1 (Dawn Dickson) • Hamilton (Dawn Dickson) • Motherwell (Dawn Dickson) • Rutherglen (Dawn Dickson) • Blantyre Housing (Dawn Dickson) • Coatbridge 1 (Alison Greenaway) • Coatbridge 2 (Alison Greenaway) • Coatbridge 4 (Alison Greenaway) • Airdrie 2 (Alison Greenaway) • Blantyre Short Breaks (Sam Taylor) • TouchBase Lanarkshire (Gillian McGrory) • TouchBase Ayrshire (Hazel Gallagher) • PHEW (Helen Anderson)	• TouchBase Dunbartonshire (Angela Doherty) • TouchBase Dunbartonshire (Glasgow) Outreach (Angela Doherty) • TouchBase Glasgow 2 (Kelly Ewart)	• Cruden Bay 1 (Rebekha Gray) • Cruden Bay 2 (Rebekha Gray) • Ellon 1 (Rebekha Gray) • Ellon 2 (Rebekha Gray) • Eilean Rise (Rebekha Gray) • DDC 2 (Rebekha Gray) • DDC 3 (Rebekha Gray) • Tullideph (Kirsty Reekie) • Walton Mill (Kirsty Reekie) • Forfar (Nicola Murdoch) • Erskine Street (Nicola Murdoch) • Hillview Resource Centre (Megan Milligan) • Dundee Respite (Lynette Keith) • TouchBase Fife (Diane Fair) • TouchBase Fife Outreach (Diane Fair) • Auchtermuchty (Alan Trickett) • Finglassie (Alan Trickett) • Kelty (Alan Trickett) • Bridge of Earn (Rachel Fleming) • Tulloch Hill (Rachel Fleming)

Perceptions Art Exhibition

Submissions for *Perceptions*, our upcoming art exhibition in Glasgow, taking place in October, are only open for a little while longer! If you think your family member would like to get involved in having their work displayed in an art exhibition, now is the time to submit it. We've only received a few submissions for this exhibition so far, and we'd love to see so many more.

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 family member 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.

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 their work! 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.

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.

Sensational Lunch

There are only a few tickets left 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

September Disco – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Friday, 4 September

On Friday, 4 September, join TouchBase Lanarkshire (4 Leys Park, Hamilton) for their September disco from 7pm – 9pm. Entry costs £3.

Connect and Play – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Saturday, 12 September

Join our Early Years team for a Connect and Play session at TouchBase Lanarkshire (4 Leys Park, Hamilton) for children aged 0 – 12 with communication support needs, their siblings, and their families. This will be an autumn-themed session with messy activities, so please make sure to bring old clothes! These sessions offer the perfect opportunity for parents and carers to catch up with our Early Years Advisors and meet other families. To book your free ticket, visit bit.ly/connect-play-TBL-sep-26.

Connect and Play – TouchBase Glasgow – Sunday, 20 September

Join our Early Years team for a Connect and Play session at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, Glasgow) for children aged 0 – 12 with communication support needs, their siblings, and their families. This will be an autumn-themed session with messy activities, so please make sure to bring old clothes! These sessions offer the perfect opportunity for parents and carers to catch up with our Early Years Advisors and meet other families. To book your free ticket, visit bit.ly/connect-play-TBG-sep-26.

Bingo Night – St Dominic's Catholic Church, Bishopbriggs – Friday, 2 October

On Friday, 2 October, from 7:30pm – 11pm, join TouchBase Dunbartonshire at St Dominic's Catholic Church (21 Kirriemuir Road, Bishopbriggs) for a fun evening of games, prizes, and food. Entry costs £10 and includes a five-game bingo book. Proceeds will go towards our Capital Appeal, helping to secure the future of TouchBase Dunbartonshire for generations to come.

Connect and Play – TouchBase Ayrshire – Saturday, 3 October

Join our Early Years team for a Connect and Play session at TouchBase Ayrshire (41 Princes Street, Ardrossan) for children aged 0 – 12 with communication support needs, their siblings, and their families. This will be an autumn-themed session with messy activities, so please make sure to bring old clothes! These sessions offer the perfect opportunity for parents and carers to catch up with our Early Years Advisors and meet other families. To book your free ticket, visit bit.ly/connect-play-TBA-oct-26.

Treats and Treasures – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Saturday, 3 October

On Saturday, 3 October, from 10am – 1pm, come along to TouchBase Lanarkshire (4 Leys Park, Hamilton) and enjoy a coffee/tea and cake and buy some new and pre-loved clothes, handbags, and shoes! All proceeds will go towards fun activities and events for the people we support at the TouchBase. Entry costs £1.