



deafscotland Bulletin June 2020



We want the Bulletin to be accessible therefore we CANNOT use the information in the form of posters, PDF, JPEG, GIF or publisher in the bulletin.

****PLEASE NOTE:** We realise that many people are working at home and may not have the equipment they normally use. During this crisis, if you want an activity or a piece of news in the bulletin, email it to us – text and web links only – to admin@deafscotland.org

Thank you.

If your contact details have changed, please let us know so we can update our records.

Monthly Newsletter for deafscotland Members



We hope that you, your staff, your service users/members and your families remain safe and healthy. We are still working remotely and will be for the next month or two.

We continue to send kind regards to all our members and we are hoping that you all keep well during this crisis. Even with lockdown easing in some areas, the pressure is still on to keep people safe. We need to work together to get to the “new normal”.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” Helen Keller

Connect and Capitalise would have taken place on Tuesday 17 March 2020

We are looking at what we can do to make sure the discussions, debates and learning that should have taken place at the Connect and Capitalise Conference in March can still happen. These are the organisations that offered us sponsorship and support for our Connect and Capitalise Conference and we still hope that we will be able to take forward our postponed conference once lockdown is completely.



Recent publications

We have recently published a number of publications on our website. These can be found on a number of different pages as well as on our publications page:

<https://deafscotland.org/deafscotland-publications/>

These reports are the:

- Data Census Report 2020
- Safety First... Keeping people safe with Communication for All. This report contains the baseline survey reports from four deafscotland projects: Self-Management, Cycling, Safety, and Mental Health.
- First National BSL Summit Report; and
- Connect Us Too Mental Health Summit Report.

The BSL Project Evaluation Report will be available soon.

Coronavirus (Scotland) (No 2) Act

We put forward an amendment to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No 2) Bill at Stage 2. Mark Griffin MSP and Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Deafness tabled the amendment for us.

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/coronavirus-scotland-no2-bill>

The amendment was to include Inclusive Communication in the Bill in the same way as it was in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. The wording in the Coronavirus Act matches that of the Social Security Act, in that Scottish Ministers must have regard to the importance of communicating in an inclusive way. It also gives the meaning of “communicating in an inclusive way.”

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2020/10/pdfs/asp_20200010_en.pdf

This should make a difference in how accessible the information comes out about the pandemic and recovery is for everyone in Scotland.

Ongoing projects

The **Self-Management project** is about to start its second phase. A new survey will be coming out about this shortly. To find out more, go to

<https://deafscotland.org/self-management-information/>

The **Cycling Safely Project** is also moving onto its next phase. The baseline survey will be repeated across deaf and mainstream cycling clubs to see if the films have made any difference to how safe deaf

people and their families feel when cycling about Scotland. To view the films, go to <https://deafscotland.org/cycling-safely-for-deaf-people/>

We have put together **a survey on the Covid-19 crisis for people with a hearing loss** to complete to give us actual evidence to take to the Scottish and UK Governments on the information and support provided for individuals, those in employment and those who employ others. To complete the survey, go to <https://forms.gle/pdHRH1MDVCdS5CfFA>

The next National Council meeting

The next meeting will be going ahead on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at 1.30pm.

We will be doing this remotely via Zoom, an online video call/conference platform.

We will be in touch with our members shortly by email with further details and instructions for Zoom.

Latest News...

There has been Deaf Awareness Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. It is now Volunteers Week. There are more to come...see our Calendar for more details. We will be putting out daily messages during some of these weeks. Go to Latest News for more details:

<https://deafscotland.org/latest-news/>

Our Virtual Museum

The Virtual Museum is due to go live next month. We are still looking for any items or stories that you may have that would be of interest and could be included within the Virtual Museum.

During more time spent during lockdown, have you come across any items that have been hidden away or have you recalled any old memories/stories that you would be willing to share?

Your contribution can be done as a document or as a film. We can email you a "how to..." guide to filming/recording your stories. A 'how to' guidance document has been created and can be shared with you.

As lockdown conditions due to hopefully ease soon would you be willing to tell us of your experience during lockdown, what have you missed/what are you looking forward to? Being deaf, how have you found the increased use of face coverings? We would be interested to hear how you have coped during lockdown. We could include this story in the Virtual Museum for people to see from a deaf perspective how the conditions associated with the Coronavirus pandemic affected those with hearing loss.

If you want to know more about the project, how to record your story or even prepare your photos/films for sharing, please get in touch with Stewart at admin@deafscotland.org.

Our Campaigns

We would like all our members to promote our **Communication For All** campaign and see that the interest is growing behind the principle.



<https://deafscotland.org/support-communication-for-all/>

Disclosure: Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG): Covid-19 Update

We, at **deafscotland**, can still countersign disclosure applications on behalf of other organisations which may be too small to become signatories themselves or for individuals who are self-employed and need to have a disclosure to work in their chosen field. But have to do it in a different way as we cannot put ourselves or anyone else at risk. The disclosure form needs to be submitted electronically, but as countersignatories we still need to be able to check ID. It might be possible to do this by Skype or Zoom.

To discuss your need for a disclosure and arrangements for countersigning the form, please contact us at admin@deafscotland.org

BSL translation

We have translated our news / information into BSL (British Sign Language). Please use this link below to our YouTube page to find the

information: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7TPJkTbihG-5uo4ugUUc1mxNLn-QJg7z>

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

NEWS / INFORMATION ON COVID-19

Dear Colleague,

deafscotland is not producing information on Covid-19 or advice on how to stay safe a protect your staff as plenty other organisations are doing this. If you haven't received any information either for your service users/members or as an employer, please email me at chiefofficer@deafscotland.org and I can send you the most appropriate links.

If you have a hearing loss yourself, please go to our survey at

Kind regards Janis

Coronavirus (Scotland) (No 2) Bill

On behalf of deafscotland, Mark Griffin MSP, Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Deafness agree to take forward an amendment to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill on Inclusive Communication. To find out more, go to <https://deafscotland.org/equality/inclusive-communication-added-to-coronavirus-scotland-no-2-bill/>

Information from deafscotland members:

<https://deafscotland.org/covid-19-information-from-members/>

ACAS has information for **employers and employees:**

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Inform

NHS Inform has produced information for people providing essential care and support to others throughout the crisis as well as a toolkit: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-professionals>

There is information about Covid- 19 in **BSL**:
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/translations/languages/british-sign-language-bsl/illnesses-and-conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

And in **Easy Read**:
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/translations/formats/easy-read/coronavirus-covid-19>

From the Scottish Government

Following the UK Government's announcement to expand its testing capacity to include the testing of key workers, demand across England has been significant. This has resulted in the website being closed from time to time to help manage the demand.

The Scottish Government published guidance on Saturday 25 April regarding the expanded testing programme in Scotland and for testing of key workers – links to this guidance are below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-access-to-testing/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/>

For general information about Covid-19, go to <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): clinical and practice guidance for adult care homes

This guidance provides targeted clinical and practice advice about COVID-19 to support those working with adults in care homes.

The guidance considers some of the practical steps that are required to support good infection control within care homes and is based on Health Protection Scotland COVID-19 - Information and guidance for care home settings.

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-clinical-and-practice-guidance-for-adult-care-homes/documents/clinical-guidance-for-nursing-home-and-residential-care-residents/clinical-guidance-for-nursing-home-and-residential-care-residents/govscot%3Adocument/National%2BClinical%2BGuidance%2Bfor%2BCare%2BHomes%2BCOVID-19%2BPandemic-%2BMASTER%2BCOPY%2B-%2BFINAL%2B-%2B15%2BMay%2B2020.pdf>

From Police Scotland

Police Scotland are continuing to monitor community tensions and hate crime as a result of Covid-19. If you have any concerns or become aware of any increasing tensions within your community, please contact Police Scotland at the email address:

Diversityunit@scotland.pnn.police.uk

For information on how Police Scotland is managing the Covid-19 emergency, go to <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-policescotlandresponse/>

Scammers and fraudsters

Please be aware that as more people are working at home and communicating with family and friends, people need to be aware the scammers and fraudsters are also online more trying to catch you out. Please make sure you stay safe online. If you are scammed/caught out, please report it to the police. They can help.

NEWS / INFORMATION

From Ai-Media

Accessibility, one word at a time

[Ai-Media](#) is a global captioning, transcription and translation company with 17 years of experience and a singular vision: that every single person deserves equal access.

Ai-Media was founded on the principle of inclusion for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and it continues to hold this commitment to accessibility at the centre of its work today.

Since its beginnings in Australia in 2003, Ai-Media has grown greatly. It now offers services for [education](#), [broadcast](#), [events](#) and [workplaces](#), and has worked with top companies including Facebook and NASA.

The unique technology platform that Ai-Media offers has taken it from strength to strength in the accessibility space. Its services for [live streams](#) and [Zoom meetings](#) have been essential in the online era, especially during the [coronavirus pandemic](#), when more people than ever are operating from home.

In recent news, Ai-Media this month [joined forces](#) with US company Alternative Communication Services (ACS). This partnership will allow Ai-Media and ACS to become a true world leader, offering even higher-quality services in more parts of the world.

Ai-Media is a proud new member of deafscotland, and the Ai-Media team looks very much forward to working together to improve access for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities of Scotland.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aimediaAUS/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/accessinclusion>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/accessinnovation/>

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/ai-media_854939/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AiMedia01>

From Stage Captions

Remote Live Captioning Services

Are you holding your meetings or events virtually due to COVID-19?

Remote Live Captioning allows d/Deaf and hard of hearing participants to follow what's going on, with live subtitles delivered to multiple locations and devices.

Captions can be embedded, overlaid or viewed in full browser mode. Clients are able to customise the font size and colour at their end.

A full transcript of the event is provided afterwards.

Available for webinars, digital talks, team meetings, live theatre, church services and other virtual events.

No specialist equipment required. Suitable for use with Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Lifesize and other platforms.

Access to Work enquiries welcome.

No booking fees

NRCPD registered. Enhanced Disclosure.

Contact details: Email: admin@stagecaptions.co.uk

Website: www.stagecaptions.co.uk

Mobile: 07837 622229

Twitter: @stagecaptions

From Action on Hearing Loss (London)

Charity calls on nation to implement communication tips so face covers don't isolate people with deafness and hearing loss:

<https://actiononhearingloss.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-press-releases/charity-calls-on-the-nation-to-implement-effective-communication-tips-to-ensure-face-covers-dont-isolate-those-living-with-deafness-and-hearing-loss/>

Progress made on accessible information on coronavirus for Deaf and hearing loss community: <https://actiononhearingloss.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-press-releases/progress-made-on-accessible-information-on-coronavirus-for-deaf-and-hearing-loss-community/>

From NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Audiologists

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde have updated their Audiology Service web-pages.

Due to current Coronavirus restrictions, all Audiology Departments are closed to patient visits, but hearing aid batteries and repairs can be offered by post.

Our updated website provides information and support materials that may assist hearing aid wearers: www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-services/audiology/

And for a list of contacts including email addresses, click here:

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-services/audiology/audiology-sites-contact-info/>

From Police Scotland

'Your Police 2020-2021' survey

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-bsl/>

This survey asks for the views of the public on policing particularly the police response during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Both the BSL and English versions are on the Police Scotland Citizen Space page (link below)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/>

The survey will remain open until **31 March 2021**.

Any queries can be sent to consultations@scotland.pnn.police.uk

From BT

Skills for Tomorrow

Tech tips are available on our website.

Go to <https://www.bt.com/tech-tips> where you will be able to watch the videos and download a PDF guides.

Tech4Good Award nominations open

BT helped create the awards with AbilityNet 10 years ago, and they recognise organisations and individuals who use digital technology to improve the lives of others, making the world a better place.

We are the headline sponsor and there are eight categories, including the **BT Young Pioneer Award**, which we support as part of BT Skills for Tomorrow.

For more information, go to <https://www.tech4goodawards.com/enter-now/youngpioneer/>

From Scottish Government Connected Communities

The [Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Bill](#) Call For Evidence has now been issued by the Scottish Parliament. If you wish to make a written submission, please visit the [Scottish Parliament](#) website for further details.

The Scottish Government has now produced eight topical notes covering the main provisions of the Bill in more detail. These can be found on the Scottish Government's [hate crime webpage](#).

The Scottish Government welcomes your views on any aspect of the Bill as it begins its passage through Parliament. Please send any queries titled 'Hate Crime Bill' to ConnectedCommunities@gov.scot.

From Historic Environment Scotland

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) PhD Scholarship 2020

The Department of Languages & Intercultural Studies (LINCS) within the School of Social Sciences of Heriot-Watt is offering one full-time PhD scholarship to start in the academic year 2020-21 and is looking for an outstanding, British Sign Language using candidate who is excited about undertaking an interdisciplinary PhD.

This scholarship arises through an award made by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to a partnership of Heriot-Watt University and Historic Environment Scotland (HES, a member of the

Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium) under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.

For information in BSL, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BETUSn05n7E&feature=youtu.be>

For more information go to: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/scholarships/phd-scholarships-languages-intercultural.htm>

From Scottish Human Rights Commission

New report that shares lessons from the Housing Rights in Practice project. The project ran in Leith for four years and aimed to empower people to use Human Rights to tackle poor housing conditions.

Read the report

at: <https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2029/housin-project-report-vfinal-may-2020.pdf>

From Royal Blind and Scottish War Blinded

Mark O'Donnell Chief Executive

On Wednesday I was pleased to host a Question and Answer session on our Facebook page with National Clinical Director, Professor Jason Leitch. This session offers guidance and support to people with visual impairments, and so, in sharing with yourselves, I hope in turn this session could prove useful to your service users.

Questions were submitted by blind and partially sighted people, and family members of people supported by our services and Jason addressed the concerns which are most important to them at this time.

In this half hour special, Jason answered questions on topics including Coronavirus testing in care homes, social distancing practices for people with visual impairment upon lockdown restrictions easing, and accessible communication during the pandemic.

Professor Leitch offered open and insightful responses to the questions posed by people with visual impairments, and I hope this session could

be helpful to those whom you are supporting during this challenging time.

You can:

- [View the session on our website](#)
- [Share it via our Facebook page](#)
- [Share the Youtube link via email](#)

Even as we reach out to all people known to us, this will not be enough to reach all blind and partially sighted people, and so we would appreciate your support in sharing this question and answer session more widely with your service users.

From Generations Working Together

Following our Food For Life event at the Glasgow & East Dunbartonshire intergenerational network this Wednesday we have attached a report with notes and contacts that may be useful. Please see this here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/glasgow-network-meeting-in-partnership-with-teh-soil-association-and-food-for-life-get-togethers-27-05-2020> .

We have also just published an intergenerational directory of activities you can do during lockdown, please see this on our website and share

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/directory-of-intergenerational-ideas-and-resources-for-use-during-covid-19-crisis>

Please note that the next **Glasgow & East Dunbartonshire Intergenerational Network meeting** will take place on **Friday the 23rd of October from 2 pm**. We will decide on the venue closer to the time due to the health crisis. **You can now register** for this:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/glasgow-and-east-dunbartonshire-intergenerational-network-meeting-23-10-2020>

From The Department of Work and Pensions

Tell Us Once service awareness

The death of a friend or family member can be a difficult and stressful time. The Tell Us Once service helps you inform central and local government departments, as well as a range of public sector pension schemes, alleviating the need to contact different people across a range of organisations at a time when you are most vulnerable.

The Registrar can provide you with a unique reference number when you register the death or obtain an interim death certificate. You can then access the service via telephone or online.

Find out more: https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2fnews.dwp.gov.uk%2fdwplz%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Coronavirus+Touchbase+special+-+29+May+2020&utm_term=Coronavirus+Touchbase+special+-+29+May+2020&utm_content=67426

“We used this service when our mother died. The Registrar filled in all the details for us and we checked them. Then she pressed the button and it was done. We got statements later from the DWP/HMRC on what was still owed to Mum’s estate. It meant we didn’t have to remember who to contact – it was all done for us.” deafscotland member

EVENTS

From the Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE)

SUSE AGM for 2020 via Zoom on Tuesday 30th June at 1pm.

We will be sharing the Agenda and papers next week but in the meantime we would be obliged if you could save the date and time in your diary and let us know if you plan to participate.

As you know at the AGM we usually invite some members to present and tell us about their work. That won’t be possible this year but we want to make use of this opportunity nevertheless. Therefore, following the usual AGM business we will be hosting a discussion titled ‘A Fair Recovery.’

This will be a chance for members to share their views on how we can emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that people with disabilities or long term conditions are not disadvantaged going forward.

Please let us know if you plan to participate by emailing michelle@susescotland.scot

TRAINING: Working with deaf people during lockdown and want to know more...

AWARENESSbites



AWARENESSbites online Learn how to communicate better with deaf people

<https://deafscotland.org/what-we-do/training/awarenessbites/>

deafscotland has teamed up with **AWARENESSbites** to provide quality online learning and development to front-line and public facing staff who may not be able to attend face-to-face training courses.

We are offering two packages: Green and Purple

The Package Contents:

Green package – £15 per user

- Aimed at those who require to know the basics and may come across a deaf or deafblind person occasionally. This package can easily be completed in under 2 hours.

Purple package – £28 per user

- Aimed at those who would require a little more detail and understanding and meet deaf or deafblind people more frequently within their day to day service provision. This package can take between 2.5 – 3.5 hours depending on activities taken.

Please note the system cannot take multiple log-ins so please make sure you have enough time to complete the course before starting.

If you would like to purchase packages, please contact us directly at admin@deafscotland.org.

We would consider an organisational discount that offers value for money for large numbers of users.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PQs, MOTIONS AND DEBATES

On behalf of deafscotland, **Mark Griffin MSP, Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Deafness** agree to take forward an amendment to the **Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill on Inclusive Communication**.

“Amendment 51 seeks to ensure that, in using its powers under the bill, the Government does so in a way that is inclusive and communicates appropriately with all people, particularly those who have a disability or communication needs. The amendment, which is sponsored by deafscotland would align the duties on Government under the bill with those in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 and the recently passed Consumer Scotland Bill.”

To read the rest of what Mark had to say, go to <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12646&i=114412>

Full amendment as included in the Bill: <https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/coronavirus-scotland-no2-bill/stage-3/groupings-of-amendments-at-stage-3-coronavirus-no2-scotland-bill.pdf?la=en>

<https://deafscotland.org/equality/inclusive-communication-added-to-coronavirus-scotland-no-2-bill/>



Copy Deadline for the Next Issue

The NEW deadline is on the 24th of every month.

Please forward your contributions for the next bulletin to:
admin@deafscotland.org.

We are happy to publish details about your news, information, events, training courses and conferences. Please send us the **English text** you want to be included in the bulletin.

If **you are not a member of deafscotland** and would like to advertise an event, training courses or conferences, please contact us at admin@deafscotland.org before you send us the English text as there will be an admin charge.

deafscotland Disclaimer

Where appropriate, information sources for the bulletin are noted in each article. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of deafscotland. We cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of information. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION (ARTICLES) IN THE DEAFSCOTLAND MONTHLY BULLETIN

We appreciate the time that you take to send us your information, training, events, and news articles for the deafscotland bulletin. Sometimes we are not getting enough information, sometimes the information is not clear, and at other times, we have a great article, but no contact details.

In order that we get the information we need to put in the bulletin and you reach your intended audiences, we have put together a template that we would appreciate it if you use to send us information / articles.

We cannot use posters, but we are willing to “share” your posts on our Facebook and re-tweet your “tweets” on our Twitter account. You might have information on your website or YouTube or Vimeo in BSL (British Sign Language) – please share the links, so that we can.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTHLY EDITION – 24TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH

Please do not include logos, graphics or photographs as we cannot include these in our bulletin. We might be able to share on social media – please email admin@deafscotland.org to ask.

Organisation's name	
Article / news item	(Maximum 400 words)

Important date(s)	
Contact details for the bulletin	
Link(s) in social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube	

ALL ARTICLES TO BE EMAILED TO:
admin@deafscotland.org BEFORE THE 24TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH.