



visibility

Spring 2005

Welcome to our Spring 2005 Newsletter!

In the aftermath of the devastation caused by the Tsunami and the subsequent demands on everyone's fundraising efforts we are extremely grateful for people's ongoing support and generosity for Visibility.

In this edition you will read about Moira Auld who actively fundraises for us in her hometown of Maybole. You will also read about our successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund enabling us to expand our Community Liaison project across the west of Scotland and a grant from the Abbey Charitable Trust for specialist equipment for our Welfare Rights Service.

Our fundraising continues and we are actively recruiting participants for the Glasgow Women's 10k taking place in May. If you would like to take part or know of anyone who may be interested please get in touch with Sarah our Fundraising Manager for your sponsor pack and Visibility t-shirt.

Launch of new Visibility Website!

Our website is now up and running and thank you to those people who helped try out the accessibility of the site. Please visit it on **www.visibility.org.uk** and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to visit it also. Please tell us what you think of it!

We would be really pleased to hear from you with any ideas, suggestions or comments on any aspect of Visibility. Please contact Fiona Sandford, Chief Executive.

SERVICE NEWS

Welfare Rights Team in Landmark Cases!

Our Welfare Rights Team has successfully reclaimed Disability Living Allowance benefits for a visually impaired service user. The claim had previously been applied for in 1993. Visibility requested the case be reconsidered and in January the original decision was overruled and the client received a substantial backdated award.

Our team also helped successfully reclaim nine years of backdated Council Tax Disability Reduction for a registered blind person. He has a room used mainly to listen to radio, talking books, use his Perkins Braille machine, house his TV and exercise equipment. The disability reduction resulted in his council tax being reduced by one banding.

Both results are great news for the clients and ground-breaking work from Visibility's Welfare Rights Team!

Abbey Supporting Welfare Rights

Visibility was successful in securing a grant from the Abbey Charitable Trust as part of their Community Programme for Glasgow charities enabling us to purchase IT equipment and specialist software for our Welfare Rights Service.

If you live in Glasgow or West Dunbartonshire and would like further information relating to benefits, please contact the Welfare Rights Team on 0141 572 0748.

First Family Support Session

Visibility has recently launched a new support service for the families of children with visual impairments who live in North and South Lanarkshire. The sessions are co-ordinated by Kerrie Brown from the Community Liaison Team. Whether your child has been newly diagnosed with a visual impairment or whether you already have some knowledge and experience of the specialist services available, you may find our parent meetings useful.

Our first family support session took place at Knowetop Primary School in Motherwell for twenty-one parents of visually impaired children living in North and South Lanarkshire.

Celia Traynor, Visibility's Patient Support worker based at Gartnavel Hospital was the guest speaker and used her expertise and experience to talk about the implications of registering a child as blind or partially sighted.

Anyone who is interested in receiving more details about future Family Support sessions should contact Kerrie Brown at Visibility. Tel: 0141 332 4632 Email: kerrie@visibility.org.uk.

Big Lottery Funding for Community Liaison

Following on from the Community Liaison Project's recent success in securing funding to work in North and South Lanarkshire, we have also been successful in securing funding from the Big Lottery Fund. This funding will allow the team to further develop our work.

As part of this funding we plan to develop support groups for people to share ideas and knowledge. We look forward to bringing you more information in future issues.

Our information and advice line is available to anyone with a query relating to visual impairment - Tel: 0141 572 0746

Visibility Represented at Vision 2005

Two members of Visibility's staff team, David Logan, New View Project Co-ordinator and Shelagh Palmer, Health Co-ordinator, have had papers accepted to present at Vision 2005, the world's largest conference on issues concerning people with sight problems. Hosted by the RNIB it takes place in London from 4–7 April 2005.

David will be speaking about the success of our Eccentric Reading project, 'New View', and Shelagh will present the evaluation of the first year of our Patient Support Service at Gartnavel Hospital.

The conference has attracted leading experts from all over the world. The six themes of the conference cover clinical care and integrating rehabilitation; epidemiology and world blindness; visual function assessment and visual performance; education across the lifespan; employment and finally advances in technology, designing and constructing for an inclusive environment.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Up and coming fundraising events

We are in the process of confirming a number of exciting events for 2005 including a zip slide and parachuting! If you would like more details please contact Sarah Hunter, Fundraising Manager on 0141 332 4632 or email sarah@visibility.org.uk.

At the moment we are recruiting participants for:

Glasgow Women's 10k – Sunday 15 May 2005

Great Scottish Run & Junior Run – Sunday 4 September 2005

Visibility t-shirts and sponsor packs are available for all our fundraising events.

Support for Visibility

There are many ways you can support us and we can illustrate what happens to your money so you know how it makes a difference. Along with valuable donations, legacies continue to help us fund our work and a growing band of supporters have chosen to support us with a regular gift by standing order.

We would like to thank the individuals, organisations and companies who have supported us, including the following:

- **Moira Auld**

To date Moira has raised £820.00 for Visibility by organising: Quiz and Karaoke night; stall at the Maybole Christmas gala; 'Mr and Mrs' Valentines evening; and charity shop items sold in aid of Visibility. We are grateful for Moira's ongoing support and to the people who help her in terms of fundraising and generosity of time and effort.

- **Kings Park Parish Church**

Since 1965 the members of Kings Park Parish Church have been raising funds at an annual coffee morning to support visually impaired people. For the past three years these funds have been donated to Visibility and this year £1,050 was raised. We are extremely grateful to Kings Park Parish Church for their ongoing support and hard work in raising these valuable funds.

• St Paul's R C Primary School

Pupils from St Paul's RC Primary School handed over a cheque for £1,000 to Visibility. The money was raised mainly from a sponsored walk around Victoria Park. Mr Hardie, Head Teacher told Visibility, "The children were inspired by the visual impairment awareness raising programme carried out by Visibility with the children last year. The relevance and impact of what they heard inspired them to raise this significant amount."

Sarah Hunter,
Visibility's Fundraising Manager
receiving the cheque from
St Paul's RC Primary School pupils.



Visibility is extremely grateful for all the support we receive. If you would like to make a donation or receive information on forthcoming events please contact Sarah Hunter, Fundraising Manager, Tel: 0141 332 4632 Email: sarah@visibility.org.uk.



VISIBILITY NEWS

Visibility Newsletter

We produce our newsletter approximately three times a year. It is available in Braille, large print, audio tape or email format. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter or would prefer it in another format please contact Claire Williams on 0141 332 4632 or email info@visibility.org.uk.

Visibility Staffing News

Visibility has three new faces in our Go! Team: Gavin Morgan has joined us as Go! Co-ordinator. Sarah Ananda and Andrea Mills have joined as our new Go! Group workers. Andrea Vanlandschoot joins our Direct Services Administration team.

STOP PRESS!!

Sound Site Exhibition 2005

Visibility will be at this year's Sound Site exhibition taking place at the Central Hotel, Glasgow on Thursday 31 March and Friday 1 April. If you are attending please come and visit us at stand 41 in the Logie Baird Suite. As with previous years we are assisting the organisers with providing volunteers for sighted guiding. **If you require a guide please contact us on 0141 332 4632.**

Consultation Group

The RNIB would like to hear from anyone living in the area covered by Argyll and Clyde NHS Board who would be keen to join a Consultation Group to help implement policy on disability issues, particularly in relation to physical barriers and the remedial works required to reduce them. **More details from John Gilmore, Vale of Leven Hospital. Tel: 01389 817407.**

BBC Radio Programme on Sleep Loss

Ian Hamilton, a BBC journalist, is currently working on a programme for Radio Scotland examining how lack of sleep in the visually impaired can have various side effects. He is looking for three people to take part who have been seriously affected by lack of sleep due to their visual impairment. The programme is due to be recorded over the summer. **If you are interested in taking part please contact Ian Hamilton at BBC Scotland on 0141 338 2799**

For more details on any aspect of Visibility please contact 0141 332 4632

Visibility is the trading name of GWSSB (formerly Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Blind). GWSSB is a company, registered in Scotland limited by guarantee with its registered office at 2 Queens Crescent, Glasgow, G4 9BW. Registration Number: SC116522 Scottish Charity Number: SCO 09738