


Milton Keynes Sensory Services

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Spring 2024 Newsletter



New Contract - Milton Keynes Sensory Services

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new Sensory Service in Milton Keynes!

Having said that, you will notice that most aspects of the service remain the same and we aim to continue delivering advice and support to those who are D/deaf, hard of hearing, sight impaired and deafblind across Milton Keynes for the next 4 years on behalf of Milton Keynes Council.

We also hope to develop the service by looking at where there may be gaps in provision, but we need your help to do this. We will shortly be recruiting volunteers to help us deliver hearing aid support to those communities farther out from the city centre.

We are also hoping to set up peer support groups where people with sensory loss can meet informally to share ideas and support each other through their common experiences.

If you would like to be kept updated with what is happening in the service or you wish to give us feedback, please contact us using the details at the end of this newsletter.

Meet the team



Image shows five women standing side by side in front of a colourful BID services sign



Pauline Jarvis
Team Manager



Dona Rooke
Administrator



Rachel Cross
Sensory Service
Officer



Debbie Malone
Vision Rehabilitation
Specialist



Elaine Wooding
Sensory Service
Officer



Martin Stevenson

We were sad to hear that one of our service users, Martin Stevenson had recently passed away.

Martin, who was profoundly deaf had received support from the sensory service over a number of years. His wife Christine contacted us to say that a donation of £270 had been collected from Martin's family, friends and the local community in his memory and that she wanted to donate the money to our service.

Team Manager Pauline visited her to thank her personally for being so generous and assured her that we would use the money to benefit other people impacted by hearing loss as Martin was.

BSL Open Day - February 2024

We received funding from Milton Keynes Community Foundation to arrange an event aimed at giving people who use BSL access to services and support available to them.

The ability to access information is still an ongoing issue for some members of the Deaf community who use BSL as their first language as many service providers are still only providing a phone number as a means of contact. This means that Deaf people cannot always access services independently, which is their right.

There were a number of interesting conversations throughout the day as those who attended (despite the pouring rain) were able to speak directly to organisations who provide support to all, like MK University Hospital and organisations who specifically support Deaf and hard of hearing people.

It was empowering for Deaf people to be able to talk directly to service providers about the difficulties they face and the event has led to ongoing contact with those who attended to ensure that we can continue to pass on feedback from our service users.



- STEPS TO CALL**
- Sign
 - Lead in British
 - Encourage 999 BSL APP of hearing on the app on your device
 - Prov
 - PRESS THE RED BUTTON Begin your emergency call
 - CONNECT TO BSL INTERPRETER You will be connected within seconds
- needed - download today to save lives

SIGNHEALTH

You alone you can for support

Contact and referrals
To make a referral or enquiry please contact us:
da@st...
Dr...

MKSS News & Events

Equipment Information Days

We are planning a number of equipment days throughout the year where you can come in to find out about the latest technology available to support people with sight or hearing loss. If you would like a one to one appointment to view equipment for either sight or hearing loss, please contact us and we will let you know the next available date.

Hard of Hearing Support Group

We are hoping , within the next few months to relaunch the HOH Support Group. The previous group was run very successfully by Ros Bloor for a number of years. This new group will be aimed at providing support, information and advice on issues surrounding acquired hearing loss. We will invite speakers to come in and give advice on key issues. There will be a limited number of spaces for attendees, so if you would like to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can contact you when a start date is confirmed.

Braille Classes

These are run fortnightly and we have a limited number of spaces available to people who would like to learn.

Milton Keynes Macular Society Support Group

offer practical and emotional support to anyone with central vision loss from any macular condition. Their coffee morning is held **1st Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 12.00pm** in John Lewis restaurant, turn left from the lift or escalator, they meet at the back.

They also hold a monthly meeting on the **2nd Tuesday of each month from 2.00pm - 4.00pm** at Centrecom Meeting Place, 602 North Row (Behind MK Library) Secklow Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BJ. For further information please contact: **Maggie Weston, Tel: 01908 319292, Email: mkmacsoc@gmail.com**

Milton Keynes Deaf Community run a number of events in the city aimed at people who use BSL. Coffee mornings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at John Lewis. Events planned include Go Karting, Sunday Lunch and London Zoo BSL tour. For further information, please contact **carron@pasupport.co.uk**

Milton Keynes Theatre Access Performance List

Sarah Millican: Late Bloomer

Captioned: 31 July 2024 at 8pm



Six

Audio Described: 25 September 2024 at 6pm

Captioned: 19 December 2023 at 7pm

Come From Away

Audio Described: 27 Nov 2024 at 7:30pm

with Touch Tour at 6pm

Captioned: 28 Nov 2024 at 7:30pm

BSL: 29 Nov 2024 at 7:30pm

Peter Pan

BSL: 17 December 2024 at 7pm

Audio Described:

18 December 2024 at 7pm with
Touch Tour at 5:30pm

Captioned: 19 December 2024 at 7pm



HOW TO CONTACT MKSS

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SMS: 07803 452617

Email/Facetime: mkss@bid.org.uk

ADDRESS

Milton Keynes Sensory Service

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We are on Social Media!



Facebook@MiltonKeynesSensoryServices

Instagram @bid_services

LinkedIn @bid-services

YouTube @bidservices



Milton Keynes Sensory Services is funded by Milton Keynes Council and delivered by BID Services.

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