


Milton Keynes Sensory Services



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Winter 2024 Newsletter



Meet the team



Pauline Jarvis
Team Manager



Dona Rooke
Administrator



Rachel Cross
**Sensory Service
Officer**

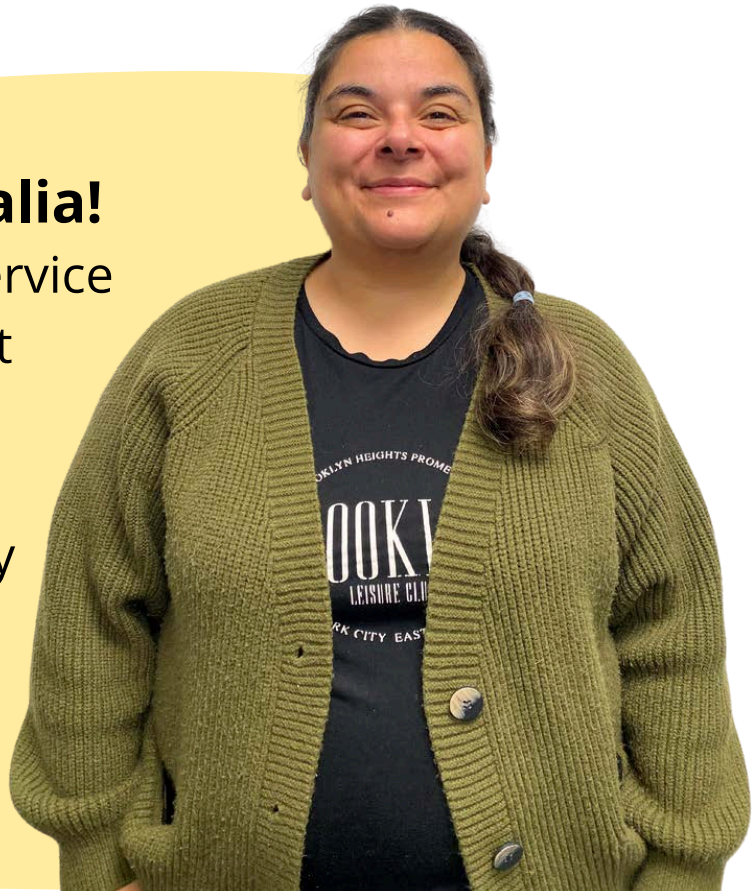


Elaine Wooding
**Sensory Service
Officer**

MKSS News & Events

Welcome to Amalia!

Our new Sensory Service Officer Amalia Wyatt joined the team in November and will be working primarily with people who have sight loss.



Tech Hub - Sight Loss Support

We have recently set up a Tech hub in partnership with RNIB. The aim is to support people with sight loss to access apps on their smart phone or tablet and also to give advice on how to access information online using your device. The sessions will restart on **10 January 2025** and thereafter on the **2nd and last Friday of every month** from **11.00am - 1.00pm** at the Central Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HL. For further information please contact **Padma: 07456 202707** Email: **pscheriyan@gmail.com**

Hard of Hearing Group

We ran some group sessions with presentations from a Lipreading Teacher, the Fire Service and an equipment specialist in equipment. We will be running more sessions from February 2025 so watch this space!



[Image shows a group of people sitting around a table facing the lipreading teacher who is sitting in front of a TV screen and white board.]

Volunteers

We are still looking for more volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to support people who wear hearing aids, give us a call.

Accessibility in Milton Keynes parks

We have been working with the Parks Trust to look at accessibility issues for people with sight and hearing loss. If you have any issues accessing their facilities, let us know so that we can pass on your concerns.

MK Hospital Diagnostics Team

Following feedback from a service user, Pauline visited the team meeting of staff working in the diagnostics centre of MK Hospital.

She was keen to explore the experience of people with sensory loss, but particularly people with hearing loss. This is because it was explained that people who wear hearing aids must remove them before being scanned and are required to wear earplugs to protect them from the loud sounds in the scanner.

The team working at the diagnostics centre have shown a commitment to ensuring that patients with hearing loss are kept informed about their treatment in an accessible way. Further information about what to expect when having an MRI scan can be found by visiting their webpage <https://inhealthcdc.co.uk/milton-keynes>



Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS)

Charles Bonnet Syndrome develops in a person who has sight loss. It causes visual hallucinations, which vary in intensity.

The syndrome was named after Charles Bonnet (1720-1792) who was a lawyer by profession and lived in Geneva, Switzerland. He documented the visual hallucinations being experienced by his 87-year-old grandfather, Charles Lullin, who was nearly blind from cataracts in both eyes. Bonnet knew that Lullin was 'of sound mind', so recognised that the hallucinations must be caused by loss of sight.

CBS is fairly common and may affect up to 50% of people with sight loss. Not everyone with sight loss develops CBS but, for those who do, the condition can be distressing and debilitating – not least because it may be misdiagnosed as a mental health condition.

The charity **Esme's Umbrella** was set up to raise awareness of CBS to all people who are experiencing sight loss and it is proven that if people understand that they may experience visual hallucinations before it actually happens that their outcomes may be more positive.

<https://www.charlesbonnetsyndrome.uk/>

Milton Keynes Deaf Community

MKDC hold coffee mornings on the **3rd Saturday of each month** from **11.00am - 2.00pm** at:

John Lewis, The Place to Eat
680 Silbury Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 3AE

They also hold various social activities throughout the year. For further information please contact:

email: **Carron@pasupport.co.uk**

07523 061304 Text/Video WhatsApp

Milton Keynes Macular Group

The group meets on the Second Tuesday of the month from **2.00 to 4.00pm** at **Centrecom Meeting Place, 602 North Row, Secklow Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BJ**

For further information, please contact group leader Maggie Weston **Tel: 01908 319292**

E-mail: mkmacsoc@gmail.com

Milton Keynes Theatre Access Performances

Peter Pan

BSL: 17 December 2024 at 7.00pm

Audio Described:

18 December 2024 at 7.00pm

with Touch Tour at 5:30pm

Captioned: 19 December 2024 at 7.00pm



Dear Evan Hanson

Captioned: 29 January 2025 at 7:30pm

Audio Described: 30 January 2025 at 7:30pm

with Touch Tour at 6.00pm

Only Fools & Horses

Audio Described: 25 March 2025 at 7:30pm

with Touch Tour at 6.00pm

Captioned: 26 March 2025 at 7:30pm

Romeo & Juliet

Captioned: 08 April 2025 at 7:30pm

Audio Described: 10 April 2025 at 7:30pm with

Touch Tour at 6pm



Milton Keynes Gallery

Pauline visited the gallery in November to find out about the sensory aids and experiences on offer to people with sight and hearing loss. The Gallery has

a dedicated in house 'Inclusive Practice in the Arts' team who are available to answer any specific access questions.

You can sign up for their Access newsletter to receive information about accessible events at the gallery throughout the year. For further details email **access@mkgallery.org** or telephone: **01908 676900**

Access Performance List

Upcoming at the Gallery;

BSL Artist-led Tour: Vanessa Bell: A World of Form and Colour - 18 January 2025

Join Deaf artist and tour guide Chisato Minamimura for an in-depth exploration of MK Gallery's current exhibition. This tour will be in British Sign Language (BSL) only and is suitable for D/deaf visitors and users of BSL.

From Free - £11.50

HOW TO CONTACT MKSS

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ADDRESS

Milton Keynes Sensory Service

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We are on Social Media!



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