

Bucks Integrated Sensory Service Newsletter

BISS Team Update1
 Deaf Awareness Week 1 to 7 May 20231
 Service Update.....2
 RNID Communication Service ending2
 Healthwatch Survey3
 CBS Research Studies3
 Domiciliary Ear Wax Removal4
 Deaf Drop In.....4

BISS Team Update

We are very sad to announce that Gemma Munday, our Service Administrator/Engagement Liaison will be leaving on Friday 21 April to join the Buckinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust.

Gemma has been with BISS for six and a half years and many of you would have spoken to her on the phone or communicated with her via email in this time. She will be much missed by all the team, and we wish her the very best of luck for the future.

We will be recruiting over the next month and will update you in the next issue of the newsletter.

Deaf Awareness Week 1 to 7 May 2023

The theme of this year’s Deaf Awareness Week is “Access to Communication”. The week will promote greater awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by the Deaf community in accessing communication. Its aim is to encourage individuals, organisations, and governments to work together to create a more inclusive society where Deaf individuals have the same access to communication as their hearing counterparts. To get involved visit the website of UK Council on Deafness – www.ukcod.org

Service Update

Unfortunately there have been some supply issues with some of the equipment that we issue to clients.

Smoke Alarms – the LISA smoke alarm system that we have issued for many years has been discontinued. We have replaced it with the Signolux system but there have been delays in getting it stocked.

USB Players – the Sonic and Sovereign players that we used to issue are no longer produced so we switched to the RNIB's Communiplayer. Unfortunately there have been nationwide supply issues with this equipment and it is now out of stock again until May. We are researching alternatives so please bear with us.

Lamps – there have been nationwide supply issues with the flip daylight lamps, so we currently have some stock issues.

We aim to resolve equipment issues as soon as we can and apologise for the delay.

RNID Communication Service ending

After serious consideration, RNID have decided they are no longer the best organisation to directly deliver communication support. This means from 31 March they will no longer provide communication support, including BSL interpreters, speech to text reporters, lipspeakers, deafblind interpreters, sign language translators or electronic/manual notetakers.

BISS will be using other organisations, including Action Deafness, to book interpreters for our client assessments going forward. It is also possible to search for registered communication professionals on the National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD) website (address below).

Action Deafness – www.actiondeafness.org.uk

NRCPD - <https://www.nrcpd.org.uk/>

Healthwatch Survey

BISS have been approached by Healthwatch Bucks as they wish to reach out to Deaf / deaf and hard of hearing patients. Healthwatch Bucks is one of 148 independent local Healthwatch organisations set up by the government under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They want to learn about the experiences of people who use health and social care services so they can help to improve them. They will do this by influencing the people who commission, design and deliver the services.

Healthwatch Bucks wish to learn about Deaf / deaf and hard of hearing patient's experiences of appointments with a doctor, nurse, or other member of staff at their local doctor's surgery. To do this they have created a survey which can be completed online or by post **by Sunday 30th April**.

Online - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AS7LRI/>

Post – Please request a print copy of the survey from us

CBS Research Studies

Dr Jasleen Kaur Jolly, Associate Professor in Vision and Eye Research at the Vision and Eye Research Institute (VERI) is currently recruiting for two research studies into Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS). Travel expenses will be covered.

Study one - In Cambridge we are looking for volunteers with frequent hallucinations for an EEG study. We want to see how the brain pattern changes before, during and after the hallucinations. Please contact **Bethany.higgins@aru.ac.uk** for more info.

Study two - In Oxford we are comparing structure and function of the brains of people with low vision with and without CBS using MRI. We need a couple more people with CBS but **really need** more people with low vision who have never had CBS hallucinations. Please contact **brain@eye.ox.ac.uk** for more info.

Domiciliary Ear Wax Removal

Maria Martins, MAFHP MCFHP, is a local ear care practitioner who can provide ear wax removal services in your home. She has been qualified by Tympa Heath whose courses are accredited by ENT UK, BSHAA and BSA in the UK.

If you are unsure whether your hearing issues are caused by wax, she will visit you first to perform an otoscopy and advise what to do next.

Maria's costs are £20 for the Otoscopy, £75 for ear wax removal (£80 if further than 15 Miles from Aylesbury area)

Maria is also a qualified foot care practitioner and provides treatments at home for things like nail cutting, diabetic foot care, corns and more.

Mobile & WhatsApp: 07398 183 247

Email: feetcarebymaria@gmail.com

Deaf Drop In

A reminder we are running monthly appointments for BSL users where you can get assistance with translating letters, forms, help with phone calls and advice. Please note we cannot help with benefit claims or job applications.

The next sessions are **Thursday, 25 May, 29 June, 27 July, 31 August**. Two 50 minute appointments are available to book – 11am or 12pm. To book WhatsApp Rebecca or text/email using details below.

How to contact us

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