

Bucks Integrated Sensory Service Newsletter

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BISS Team Update

We are delighted to confirm that we have recruited a new Administrator for BISS, Oliver Sookun, who started on 5 June. Oliver comes to us from the Buckinghamshire Fire Service so was aware of BISS prior to joining, even referring to us many times!

Oliver is settling in well and the team are delighted to have him on board. Oliver works full time in the office so many of you may have already spoken or communicated with him.

“I have enjoyed my time so far working at BISS, it’s honestly been great. I have learnt much in the short time I have been here and have felt welcome by such a nice team. As the above says, I was aware of BISS before I started here, having previously worked at the fire service. I have liked working here at BISS more than the fire service (shhhh, don’t tell them that, they might sue me, but that’s OK since I’m never going back!) despite only being here at BISS for a month. Here’s to looking forward to more fun times at BISS, so very happy to be part of the team.”



Bucks County Show

BISS team members will be attending Bucks County Show this year which is on Thursday 31 August. They will be alongside BucksVision on their stall at the show, where you can also have a go on their tombola.

Equipment and Information Days in September

BucksVision are hosting their popular equipment and information days in September where you can talk to various equipment companies and other charities. Members of the BISS team hope to be there on the day, so drop in anytime between 10am to 2pm each day.

Monday 18th September - Milton Keynes

Christ the Cornerstone Church

Tuesday 19th September - Chesham

Community Room, Chesham Town Hall

Wednesday 20th September - Aylesbury

Meadowcroft Community Centre

Friday 22nd September – High Wycombe

High Wycombe Library, Eden Centre

Living Well with Sight Loss for Children

BucksVision and BISS are running Living Well with Sight Loss days for children, young people and their families.

While the parents sit and listen to talks by various professionals the children and young people will be taken aside for activities including independent living skills.

The days will run in August and will be tailored to children's age groups to ensure age appropriate activities can be participated in.

All of the families on our mailing list will receive an invitation with more details, but if you do not receive one and are interested, please get in touch.

Phone: 01296 487 556

Email: reception@bucksvision.co.uk

Subtitle It!

On 30th June, the RNID published results of their earlier survey on subtitles. The survey showed that 85% of deaf people are excluded from watching their favourite TV shows because of missing subtitles and a huge 97% of people had tried to watch a programme in the last year and found there were no subtitles.

90% of people completing the survey who were deaf or had hearing loss stated that they usually or always use subtitles when watching TV, indicating the importance of campaigning for better access.

The RNID are now calling on the Government to introduce the Media Bill to Parliament as soon as possible. The Bill will require: on demand services to mirror current TV access requirements i.e. to ensure that 80% of their content is subtitled, 10% is audio described and 5% is signed; services and third party platforms to work together to resolve technical issues; and that services ensure viewers have a more consistent experience of watching accessible content.

The survey also found that fewer than 50% of people were aware that you can change the appearance of subtitles on some on demand services, including changing the size of the font, the contrast and the background.

Healthwatch Survey

In the last newsletter we invited D/deaf and hard of hearing patients to take part in a Healthwatch survey about their experience of GP care.

They have now published their report and it can be found on their website including a video summary in BSL.

The outcome of their research is a recommendation that all Bucks GP surgeries to sign up to Healthwatch Bucks *Deaf and Hearing Loss GP Practice Charter* which sets out a commitment to reducing inequalities in access to GP surgery care.

For more information about the survey outcomes visit Healthwatch's website - www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk/2023/06/gp-surgery-care-when-youre-deaf-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/

Buckinghamshire Talking Therapies

Healthy Minds Bucks has been renamed as Buckinghamshire Talking Therapies. Talking therapies are effective and confidential treatments delivered by fully trained and accredited NHS practitioners.

They can help with common mental health problems like stress, anxiety and depression.

You can access talking therapies for free on the NHS. You can refer yourself to the service, or a GP can refer you.

How to contact

Phone - 01865 901 600 (Mon to Thurs 7am to 7.30pm, Fri 7am to 5pm)

SMS - Text TALK to 07798 667 169

Online – www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/bucks-talking-therapies

Community Action Days

Buckinghamshire Council's Community Safety Team have joined forces with Thames Valley Police to share information and advice at Community Action Days. Residents are invited to go along and speak to the teams to discuss their concerns.

Partner agencies attending include the Fire Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Public Health, Bucks Council's Helping Hands team, Highways and Parks services, and social landlords such as Fairhive.

The days will run from 10am to 4pm at locations across Aylesbury, Wycombe and the Chiltern area later in the year (September onwards).

How to contact us

Phone: 01296 479 970

SMS: 07918 904 664

Email: biss@bucksvision.co.uk

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter by email, BSL or on audio; or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us using the details above.

