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Cumbria-DeafVision
Promoting independence, choice and access



Newsletter December 2011

Contract Changes Crisis - Featured in Cumberland News

The Cumberland News have featured an article outlining the problems that face DeafVision. The article points out that DeafVision may have to make drastic cuts to its 40-strong workforce if it continues to lose out on work to large national organisations.

The county council's adult social care directorate now works to EU procurement laws in that any large contract – in this case, three-year contracts for “personal services” worth £157,000 or more – be put out to tender.

Organisations wishing to bid to provide such services must also meet “framework” criteria before they can join the authority's recognised list of potential suppliers.



Peter Shaw - CEO of DeafVision

The change introduced for adult social care support contracts this year has already resulted in DeafVision losing

the work to provide equipment, such as visual aids and minicomms, for deaf people across the county. Instead the work has gone to a national organisation based in Birmingham which will operate its Cumbrian service from Yorkshire.

Two other contracts DeafVision still holds are up for grabs – one to provide specialist domiciliary care and the other being intensive social work with deaf people.

DeafVision has met the domiciliary care criteria and can become a recognised supplier but the details of the new contract are still to be finalised.

For more information visit www.cumberlandnews.co.uk

Balloon Project Signature Award Nomination!

The Balloon Project was shortlisted for this year's Community Spirit award at the Signature Annual Awards 2011. This award recognises an inspirational individual or group who demonstrates outstanding commitment within their local community. People who give their time, energy, experience and commitment in making an impact to the lives of deaf and deafblind people.

The glittering Signature Annual Awards

ceremony took place at 7:00pm on Friday 18 November 2011.

Signature believe many people deserve recognition of their dedicated efforts to overcome barriers to communication between deaf and hearing people. Signature Annual Awards provide that recognition by acknowledging those whose contribution moves us all further toward achieving a society in which deaf people have full access.



For more information on the awards please visit www.signature.org.uk/awards

NHS Mental Health and Deafness Event

Cumbria Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust

Breaking Down Barriers: Opening Up the Lines of Communication

On Thursday 24th November 2011 Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with DeafVision held an event to increase awareness of communication issues surrounding

Mental Health and Deafness.

The event was designed to highlight the potential difficulties facing Deaf people when accessing NHS services. The event featured an informative presentation that included an interesting section called A Patients Journey presented by Frank Harrington and Junhui. It discussed the potential issues facing a Deaf lady (Junhui) when attending an appointment. A Patients Journey raises

some interesting questions that all organisations should be asking themselves such as What strategies do you have in place to ensure that Junhui is treated fairly? Would Junhui's expectations be met across your organisation?

All 75 in attendance enjoyed the event and all involved must be commended for their work in breaking down these barriers.

Deaf Awareness Training for NHS Foundation Trust

In March 2011 we had a contract with Mental Health to do 25 Deaf Awareness sessions @ 3 hours a session for all staff at Hospital, Home Care at home & Residential home for deaf people who have Mental Health problems in Cumbria.

Deaf Awareness training is to provide an understanding of deafness and how hearing staff can communicate effectively with those who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

25 x 3hours training session started the last week of March 2011 until the end of September 2011.

The venues were Carlisle Carleton Clinic (10 sessions) - Furness General Hospital, Barrow (3 sessions) - West Cumbria Hospital, Whitehaven (3 sessions) - Penrith Bridge Lane Hospital (3 sessions) - Old School, Distington, Workington (3 sessions) - Workington Community Hospital (1 session)

Westmorland General Hospital, Kendal (2 Sessions)

Total overall attendance was 175 people.

The evaluations and feedback from the attendees was positive and complimentary.

William T. Turner
DeafVision
Deaf Awareness Tutor

Blue Balloon Release Fundraiser at Brampton Primary School



On Wednesday 9th November 2011 William Turner visited Brampton Primary School to spend some time teach-

ing the pupils about sign language. The pupils enjoyed learning some signs and watching William tell a story in British Sign Language.

We would like to say a big thank you to the pupils at Brampton Primary School for raising £60 for Cumbria DeafVision.

Kendal Carol Service

St Thomas' Church will be holding it's annual Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 7.00pm.

There will be a sign language interpreter interpreting the service and the Deaf community are very welcome.

Get in the festive mood with traditional carols, community choir, readings and more!

If you would like to feature an event in the DeafVision Newsletter then please feel free to email: office@deafvision.co.uk or call 01228 606434.

Thank you