

# Newsletter

Deafblind  
Studies



DEAFBLIND  
UK



sense  
TOUCHING PEOPLE'S LIVES



DEAFBLIND  
SCOTLAND

**Made it... Nearly there... And just starting out!**

August and September 2007 saw 13 students receiving their Awards at award ceremonies in Scotland and England; 18 students undertaking their last taught module of the Diploma year and 30 students beginning the Certificate year.

It has been a busy year for the Deafblind Studies Board of Partners. The course continues to grow, in terms of both numbers and credibility.

The second tranche of students received their awards at ceremonies hosted by Deafblind UK and by Glasgow City Council, at which the Lady Provost was pleased to give out the awards. Two staff from Deafblind Scotland, one from Deafblind UK, three from Sense and four from Sense Scotland, were amongst the graduates receiving awards this year.

At the same time three staff from Deafblind Scotland, one from Deafblind UK, seven from Sense and two from Sense Scotland attended their last taught module in the Diploma year. After completing their Movement, Mobility and Orientation Two assignment they will go on to tackle their last, most challenging assignment, the Practice Dissertation. The subject for this is chosen by students and is a vehicle which allows them to show how the course has impacted on their thinking and practice.

This module has produced some innovative and creative work in past years and the Board of Partners hopes to enable outside practitioners to access the students best work.

September also saw the start of Tranche 4 with our largest number of students starting the course. Sixteen students in England and fourteen students in Scotland are now working on their first assignments after they attended a dynamic and lively

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four days of training delivered by Jenny Fletcher and Megan Mann in Peterborough and Paul Hart with Drena O'Malley in Glasgow. Three deafblind people were guest speakers in England enabling students to explore issues in a most meaningful and thought provoking way.

This most recent tranche has brought together fifteen students from partner organisations, ten from Local authorities across the UK, two from other voluntary organisations and two freelance professionals.

This intake has also marked the first bursary funded places. The Woodford Trust, chaired by Rodney Clarke (who some of you will know was Sense's long serving Chief Executive prior to Tony Best) have kindly sponsored a place on both the English and Scottish courses to enable attendance by people who are contributing to the field but have no way to access financial backing for the training. The Trust is also funding development activities which will enable the course to be offered as a distance learning course in the future.

The Board of Partners have been pleased to receive comments about the course from the external examiner for the University of Birmingham, Laura Pease. Amongst the feedback, she said:

**“The deafblind studies course has clearly built upon a successful first year by developing practice and continuing to educate and enthuse its students. I wish to congratulate all concerned at the quality of the work and marking sent to me.”**

The Board has also celebrated successful credit rating on the Scottish Qualifications Framework. This means that the course is the only qualification of its kind to be recognised as suitable for certain categories of social care sector workers working in the field of deafblindness in Scotland.

As part of the requirements in Scotland, we developed a Practice Unit, which will be developed further in the development work on Distance Learning. This Unit is a means of assessing practice in relation to knowledge gained through the modules in year one of the course.

To keep up to date with developments please visit the website and register at:

**[www.deafblindstudies.org.uk](http://www.deafblindstudies.org.uk)**

Virginia von Malachowski  
Sense  
Chair of Board of Partners, Deafblind Studies  
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