



Deafblind Enablement Ltd

Welcome to Deafblind Enablement's June 2012 edition of "Network Newsletter"

2011-2012 has been a busy year for Deafblind Enablement. It's been an exciting time for us all, developing new partnerships and relationships to promote and create deafblindness nationally.

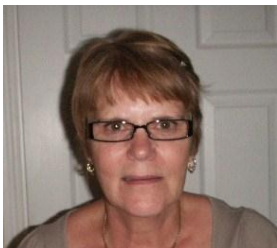
It is a pleasure to welcome Dr Philip Gafga as DBE's Consultant on Deafblindness.

We welcome our **Deafblind Awareness Officers:**

Sarah – East
Ron – North London
Avril – Essex
Alberta - Peterborough
Pauline – National
Annette – National
Julie – National

All our Awareness Officers are deafblind themselves, as are the assessors on our Communicator-Guide Support Worker Course.

The aim is to publish "Network Newsletter" annually; if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive this and any updates or wish to provide us with your feedback to help us improve future issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Lynn Sargeant; tel 01733 746538
lynn@deafblind-enablement.co.uk
www.deafblind-enablement.co.uk
Registered No: 7480324

Our mission is to enable people with a sight and hearing loss to learn new skills, develop existing skills, gain access to their community and existing services with dignity, respect, control and choice.

News Update:

Deafblind Awareness Week:

25 June – 1 July is Deafblind Awareness Week and to celebrate, **Deafblind Enablement** is offering 4 places on each Communicator-Guide Support Workers Course with a discount of £85; plus further discounts on our other courses, please contact us for further information.

Good Practice Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations:

We would like to congratulate the following Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations in this pressurised time in working with Deafblind Enablement providing the following:

- **Surrey:** SAVI Commissioned DBE to facilitate the following:
Level 2 DBG Communicator-Guide course to 13 Communicator-Guides
Level 2 DBG course incorporating specialist assessments to 14 Rehab Officers.
- **Peterborough:** 21 Rehab Assessments for Visually Impaired people completed (with 9 out of 21 specialist assessments facilitated due to their dual sensory loss)
- **Bedford:** Lady with Usher type 1 received long-cane and daily living skills training
- **Guide Dogs:** Deafblind Awareness facilitated by using DBE's E-learning workbooks; these are extremely comprehensive and ensure a good in-depth knowledge for people within different roles nationally. 7 deafblind people were involved with this project.

We also appreciate the effort and time given voluntarily by others.

WELL DONE & THANKS TO EVERYONE!

DBE's Ad Hoc Support:

Deafblind people are an extremely vulnerable group, hidden within society and often their lives are full of frustrations, isolation and loneliness.

DBE recognises the vital support needed for deafblind people and provides fully qualified Communicator-Guides and Deafblind Interpreters on a flexible, adhoc basis in line with the personalisation agenda.

DBE has provided 484 appointments within the last year.

DBE has 14 partnerships with Hospitals and GP's.

DBE's staff work on a flexible basis to fulfil assignments. Call us if you or someone you know requires specialist support.

DBE is recruiting communicator-guides; communication support workers and interpreters to work with deafblind people nationally – please contact us for further details.

Thank You

To all the following partnership organisations who have assisted DBE in facilitating training courses in 2011-2012:

- Action Deafness, Leicester.
- Independent Living Centre, Sandwell, Birmingham
 - Guide Dogs

DBE were commissioned by Surrey Association for Visual Impairment to facilitate a policy and procedure audit to enhance their excellent Communicator-Guide Scheme service and ensure overall good practice in line with CQC Regulations. **If you wish to know more about DBE auditing your service, please contact Debbie.**

Local Authority Information Gathering Audit: DBE now has a comprehensive database of sensory teams nationally, with information regarding service provision, gaps and development areas. **We wish to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss their services and partnership work with DBE.**

Deafblind Services Forums: DBE worked in partnership with Newcastle Sensory Team to hold a forum in December 2011 which was attended by representatives from 6 Local Authorities and NHS Health. Gaps in services highlighted specialist training and communicator-guides. On 19th July 2012 Deafblind awareness sessions will take place to create awareness of this hidden disability with a recruitment focus of new communicator-guides to start an ad hoc communicator-guide scheme for this area. **Anyone interested please ring.**

London – 4 Local Authority representatives attended – the gaps were identified as being specialist training and qualified, flexible, communicator-guides.

Awareness and development meetings attended: DBE attended meetings in

- North Tyneside
- Newcastle
- Cam Sight, Cambridge
- Essex
- Clarion
- Signature regarding Level 3 Deafblind Qualifications
- Staffordshire Sensory Team Meeting identified communicator-guides needed for their services. DBE now has 2 fully trained communicator-guides available to meet the outcome - a need to assist Deafblind people to attend medical appointments.

If you would like DBE to meet with you to discuss services – please contact us.

DBE's Communicator-guide Schemes: We have a team of dedicated, experienced and qualified communicator-guides and deafblind interpreters to fulfill assignments on a flexible basis.

Meet some of DBE's dedicated team



Peterborough



Essex

If you wish DBE to develop a Communicator-guide scheme in your area, please contact us to discuss.

Applied Language Solutions (ALS): DBE successfully became the preferred provider for ALS for Deafblind Interpreting and Communicator-Guide support. DBE has fulfilled 100% deafblind assignments since the contract agreement was signed in October 2011.

In early 2012, DBE attended the RAG meetings at Peterborough/Stamford NHS Hospital Trust regarding rating their Equality Delivery Systems. These ratings will assist them to determine priorities, including four objectives for 2012/13 and a four year action plan. DBE feels strongly that people with sight impairment, hearing impairment and deafblindness should not be disadvantaged in any way.

DBE is pleased to be involved with the **Social Care Association Rehab Workers Network Consultative Network Committee Meetings.** Debbie has 25+ years qualified experience as a Rehab Officer for Visual Impairment. DBE assisted with a 6-month project survey, mapping Rehab Workers nationally and asking Rehab Workers if they are completing Deafblind Specialist Assessments in line with Section 7 Guidance.

Results from a survey of 73 Rehab Workers showed:

- 20 Local Authorities have their own Deafblind Specialist Assessor
- 43 responded that their Rehab Officers in-house complete Specialist Deafblind Assessments
- 26 Rehab Officers felt that either they or their team members would benefit from Specialist Assessment Training
- Only 2 Local Authorities commissioned other providers.

Facebook page: we currently have 117 likes.

DBE is pleased to have raised awareness by training over 100 people in the period June 2011 – May 2012

Debbie, Director at DBE, has facilitated the Movement, Mobility and Orientation (MMO) 1 Module with Kim Watt, co-tutor on the Deafblind Studies Diploma. Further development work has been achieved on MMO 2 in anticipation of facilitating the course in September 2012. For further details of the Deafblind Studies Diploma [see the link on the left hand side of the page](http://www.deafblind-enablement.co.uk)

Feedback: <http://www.deafblind-enablement.co.uk/Feedback.html>

Lee Stanway, National Additional Needs Co-ordinator at Guide Dogs:

"In order to develop and improve its mobility and guide dog services to people with a dual sensory loss, Guide Dogs has been working closely with Deafblind Enablement to provide their staff with a comprehensive and informative training program.

The aim of this is to promote good practice and the development of appropriate skills required to work with deafblind people.

The workbooks and online learning programs have been developed over a period of time and incorporate the views and feedback of deafblind people too. Guide Dogs is very pleased with the quality and depth of the information and training provided and look forward to continuing their working relationship with Deafblind Enablement in the future". June 2012

Harps, Communicator-Guide Support Worker Course delegate:

Taking the DBG2 qualification with Deafblind Enablement UK has been advantageous to me in my role as a Social Care Co-ordinator at a hospital. I can now confidently and effectively communicate with deafblind service users who are admitted to hospital resulting in an enhanced experience for them and a greater degree of job satisfaction for myself.

I would recommend the course to anyone whose work involves any sort of interaction with deafblind people or anyone with a keen interest. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and would like to thank Deafblind Enablement for offering the opportunity to take on a new qualification.

June 2012

Bill, Deafblind Service User: I was very lucky to have a communicator-guide for my hospital appointment. The communicator-guide was friendly but professional and 'melted' into the situation with total ease; without them I would not have found my way around the hospital. I found the support of a competent communicator-guide reassuring in what can at times be a very daunting situation. June 2012

Sensory Team Manager states "All the Rehab Assessments are great and very comprehensive", May 2012.

Annette, DBE's Awareness Officer: "I am so pleased that I could contribute in a small way and thoroughly enjoyed it and I really feel valued that you asked me".

TRAINING DATES FOR 2012:

We offer individual places on the following courses with discounts available:

Signature DBG Level 2 – Communicator-Guide Support Worker Course:

Durham: 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 September - Leatherhead: 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 October
Leicester: 23, 24 Oct 6, 7, 8 November

Signature DBG Level 2 incorporating Specialist Assessment Training:

Birmingham: 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 July

Specialist Assessment Training: Birmingham 19 July

Deafblind Awareness Course:

Milton Keynes 4 July - Midlands 8 August

Deafblind Awareness Sessions: Newcastle 19th July

Contact us for a copy of our training brochure detailing all our courses and their learning outcomes.

DBE is interested to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss their training needs and to commission in-house training courses in a cost effective, quality way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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