

We hope that 2015 is the year that support for deaf students in Scottish colleges and universities really takes off with support from adept. We are a new organization, the Association of Deaf Educational Professionals and Trainees. The aim of adept is to link up staff working with deaf students in all sectors of the education system and to improve deaf students' experiences. The adept Scotland committee is focusing on the needs of deaf students at transition from school to college this year.

From NATED to ADEPT

We are now the Scottish branch of the Association of Deaf Educational Professionals and Trainees. Here is our new website:

http://adeptuk.co.uk/adept_Scotland.asp

Pictured on the right is our new sign name, a compound of fingerspelled-A + STAR



ADEPT is formed from two organisations, NATED and ACSW. NATED has worked on issues about deaf students in post-16 education since the mid 1970s while ACSW was a more recent organisation working to support staff acting as British Sign Language / English interpreters in colleges. The new group works across the UK and the Scottish branch

is particularly active. We are working in several areas:

- Contacting all the newly re-organised colleges about the important role of assessors and tutors of deaf students and explaining about the role of different access professionals.
- Setting up a new online electronic notetaking course

- Working with the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters to agree a job description, training route and register for people working as British Sign Language / English educational interpreters in colleges to help them become qualified.
- Providing cheap or free training events to anyone in the post-16 sector to better include deaf and Deaf students at college and university

In this newsletter you will find articles on:

Recent research about deaf students in Further Education

Training Plans for 2015:

CSWs and educational interpreters

Electronic notetakers

Recent research about deaf students in Further Education

Manchester University has recently completed research which suggests that most colleges in England are not supporting deaf students successfully, although those colleges with more experience with deaf learners provide better guidance and careers support. Researchers found that 60% of deaf young people enter FE as opposed to 33% of all school leavers. One in four of these deaf students in FE do not achieve any qualification at college and leave with nothing. Only a third of deaf students in FE were studying on Level 3 (i.e.

equivalent to SCQF level 6) courses, which include AS levels, GNVQ and BTEC National awards. Only 5% of deaf students succeeded at the AS level, i.e. the traditional route into university taken by 80% of school leaver. Despite this lack of access to college, the deaf students interviewed reported that they had great ambition and anything was possible.

To read more about this research, visit the SORD website at Manchester University:

<http://bit.ly/11zuRrO>

This research is relevant to Scotland because of the wide variation they found between the few colleges with good access for deaf students and the majority with none. Now we have only 13 large colleges in Scotland there is a much better opportunity to establish minimum levels of qualification for staff supporting deaf students across Scotland, and to aim higher.



Who can do it? How can we get the staff?

Deaf students often present a challenge to colleges and universities because they have a very wide range of needs. A student with mild deafness may need adaptations in the classroom and deaf awareness for staff and peers. A student who uses British Sign Language will need highly qualified BSL / English interpreters in class. A student who has gone deaf or has grown up deaf using speech may prefer an electronic note taker in class, *cont.*

Recent Research about Deaf students in FE, cont.
again a specialist member of staff who can process the information rapidly in class producing clear, well organised notes in live and summary forms. And any of these students might need an FM system, that is a microphone which cuts out the background noise of the class. Any might need a language support tutorial, that is time with a specialist tutor who can pre and post tutor to build English

vocabulary and study skills. It is a tall order for colleges to provide this sort of detailed specialist support. ADEPT can help colleges to learn more about the specialist roles required, as well as where to advertise to find suitable staff and how to successfully recruit, retain and train them.

This year the ADEPT Scotland committee is making a start by contacting the new college principals and heads of student services

to discuss these ideas in more detail. We would like each college in Scotland to come up to the ADEPT Scotland standard of providing a full time member of staff to assess the needs of deaf students and provide high quality support recommending qualified communication access staff. Would your college like to be the first on the list? Get in touch with us today:

email address:
adeptscotland@hotmail.com

Plans for 2015

Training events for Communication Support Workers and Educational Interpreters

Saturday 27th June, Inverness

*10am – 4pm venue to be confirmed
£35 (£25 Adept members)*

The session will give staff the opportunity to share good practice whilst understanding the importance of self-reflection. We will look at the challenges of working in the mainstream classroom and discuss practical tools, strategies and coping mechanisms. We will discuss Free and Literal interpreting and other ways of thinking about interpreting which could act as a taster for CSWs who are thinking of progressing to interpreter training. We will discuss dilemmas which bilingual support workers face, for example whether to interpret swear words.

Saturday 25th July

*Educational Interpreter Development day & CPD
Glasgow, 10am – 4pm, venue to be confirmed*

http://adeptuk.co.uk/adept_Scotland.asp



Learning more about assessment: Adept training day at Forth Valley College, FK8 1SE, on 23.3.15, If you have responsibility for student support in your college, or you regularly assess d/Deaf students entering college, this day is for you. You will learn more about the range of d/Deaf students needs. Joe O'Donnell, educational audiologist from Donaldson's School, Susan Johnston from the cochlear implant centre, Nicola Mitchell, an advanced BSL tutor and Rachel O'Neill from the University of Edinburgh will explore the issue of how to provide better quality assessments and better quality support at college level.

For more information go to the Adept UK main website to book:

http://adeptuk.co.uk/adept_Scotland.asp



Training electronic notetakers

ADEPT is teaming up with the Scottish Sensory Centre to explore how their SQA accredited course in electronic notetaking can go online. The aim is to provide a subsidised course for the first cohort starting in September 2015, provided that the participants give feedback about how the course can be improved.

An electronic notetaker (ENT) provides detailed or summary notes on a laptop computer which is usually connected by wifi to the deaf student's device, for example a laptop or i-Pad. The notetaker is discreet in the classroom and doesn't necessarily sit next to the deaf student, depending on the student's preference. The ENT is able to word process very quickly and also process language accurately to record the class as completely as possible. Students receive the tidied up notes by email on the same day.

We will report on updates in our next newsletter, out in June 2015.

How to contact us

ADEPT Scotland email: adeptscotland@hotmail.com

Adept UK web:

http://adeptuk.co.uk/adept_Scotland.asp

We welcome new committee members, who must be adept members. The committee meets three times a year at different college venues.

The Wood Report and Work Experience

This recent Government report makes important recommendations for improving the quality of work experience placements, strengthening partnerships between schools, colleges and employers, and aiming

higher for targets on apprenticeships.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00451803.pdf>

Adept Scotland welcomes this report, as it fits in very

well with recent Scottish research about deaf young people's experiences of leaving school and trying to join the labour market. For example see the findings from Chapter 4 of the recent 'Achievements and

Opportunities for Deaf Students' report, a survey of 188 young deaf Scottish people: <http://bit.ly/1xUiCTI>

There is some focus on young disabled people in the Wood report

(recommendations 33 – 36).

It is good to see recommendation 34 saying that there should be more funding for young disabled people on Modern Apprenticeships to pay for additional support. And that there should be higher targets of the number of disabled people on Modern Apprenticeships (recommendation 35).

The Government admit that very, very few disabled young people get onto a Modern Apprenticeship. Also

that the current Skills Development Scotland (SDS) system for monitoring disability on entry may be the problem – disability is self reported and young people may be worried about reporting a disability: <http://bit.ly/1z1rZgX>

Adept Scotland would like to know is there actually a budget for providing additional support for Modern Apprenticeships? We haven't been able to find one. Not surprising then that deaf young people who need reasonable adjustments during their training period are not lining up for a Modern Apprenticeship. And not surprising then that their employment opportunities are much more restricted.

We know SDS is working on this as they have produced an Equality Plan in November 2014: <http://bit.ly/1vjAZT9>

Adept Scotland's response to the Wood report and to SDS is to say: show us the funding. Why is it so hard to find? And how are you communicating to deaf young people, those who use BSL and those who use speech, to improve their chances of training and employment? How does SDS communicate to colleges and schools about the additional support for disabled students on Modern Apprenticeships?

We hope to be able to report back with news from SDS in our next issue.

