



## GIVING EXPERT ADVICE

In November Signalong exhibited at the Learning Disability Wales conference, where we were impressed by the efforts being made to ensure services are responsive to users. We asked Alison Minto, of the Welsh Assembly's Public Appointments Unit for more information to pass on to Signalong users, and she sent us this. Commissioners of services in other areas, please note.

Throughout Wales committees are set up to offer independent advice on the public services that affect us all every day. These committees, known as public bodies, provide advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on all kinds of subjects including sports, arts, culture, education, health services, environment and tourism. Whatever your interest, whether local or national, you will find a public body which looks after the services that matter most to you.

Public appointees are people who are prepared to give up their time to sit on these public bodies and share their experiences and knowledge to make a difference to the vital services that affect us all.

The roles can be extremely rewarding, helping you develop your professional skills and working in a team environment. But often the most gratifying is the feeling of giving something back to the community and influencing positive change for others.

Mary Bollingham, aged 59 from Barry, has lived with dyslexia all her life, but it hasn't stopped her taking on the responsibility of membership of the Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council, and she urges anyone who wants to take up a similar challenge to do it too.

"I was always quiet in school, so I didn't make a fuss, but when I had children, I couldn't pretend there wasn't a problem any longer. I couldn't write notes for them to take into teachers. It was embarrassing," said Mary who, with the support of her husband Alan, now tackles report writing as part of her public appointment. "When tests showed that I had dyslexia, it was like a weight was lifted off my shoulders."

"I'm such a changed person after joining the Community Health Council and I honestly feel that we make a difference.

The Welsh Assembly Government offers a free two-day training course, open to anyone keen to understand more about the role of an appointee or get advice on completing the application process.

For more information on becoming a Public Appointee, call the Public Appointment unit on 029 2082 5372 or email [publicappointments@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## KEEPING IT PERSONAL

Don't forget that one of the services that we offer is supplying your own selection of signs. For small groups of signs (up to 50 in any 12-month period) we can supply these to you at £0.75 each on paper for copying or on disc for printing. This service is for a single user's needs, or for "sign of the week" etc. If you need a larger vocabulary, you can commission your own manual from us (as more than 50 organisations have done) or you can license the signs. These will be supplied on disc for you to print as posters, incorporate into timetables and documents – anything you like except sell them (that costs a little more, but can be arranged).

We have re-examined the cost to Signalong of the licensing service, and from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 the initial cost will be £2 per sign for a 12-month licence, renewable annually at £0.50 per sign. This is slightly more expensive than the current set-up price, but subsequent use is cheaper.

For information about sign reproductions and commissioned manuals please contact Kay Meinertzhagen on 0845 450 8426 or email [kmeinertzhagen@signalong.org.uk](mailto:kmeinertzhagen@signalong.org.uk).

Please don't forget that you mustn't photocopy our manuals – although we are a charity, we don't receive any public funding and rely on the income from our publications and training services for survival.

## NEW PRICES, NEW FORMATS

We have been struggling to keep our prices steady in the face of constantly rising costs. One step we have taken which has helped us to do this has been to print the signing sections in most of our manuals on a single-coloured paper. This means that the (expensive) strongly coloured pages will now appear on cream – we selected this rather than the cheaper option of white paper to assist people with visual difficulties or with dyslexia. We will keep Phase 1 in its coloured sections which are useful for training purposes, but in 2010 we will replace the deep red and deep blue sections with more user-friendly tones. Nevertheless, we will need to increase the prices of a small number of titles, as below (to take effect from January 1<sup>st</sup>):

- |                               |     |                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| • Phase 1 (Basic Vocabulary)  | £23 | • Personal & Social Education | £16 |
| • Phase 2 (Basic Vocabulary)  | £23 | • Signalong At The Table      | £16 |
| • Basic Vocabulary Dictionary | £78 | • What Shall I Wear Today     | £18 |
| • Taking A Stand              | £28 | • We Have Feelings Too        | £15 |

## SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

We've already mentioned "Taking A Stand", which deals with bullying and hate crime, with sections on the bully and the bullied, places and circumstances where it might happen, people (supporters and witnesses), disclosure and other useful vocabulary.

### Other new publications:

- The **Basic Vocabulary Dictionary** (not new this year, but released since the last SignUp). This contains all of the Basic Vocabulary signs in 3 A5 manuals contained in a slip case. This resource is very handy to use, and has every sign fully described and drawn – cross references and text-only descriptions have been eliminated. The dictionary is very popular – one school ordered 2 copies, then 2 weeks later ordered 12 more! £75.00
- **"Respect"** songbook and CD. 15 songs written by Alison Burns for secondary and older students dealing with issues of personal development, mutual respect, the environment and other PSHE-related topics, with ideas on activities to develop the theme. The songbook has words, music and signs. Afsaic used the song "Sunshine In My Heart" for their world record in simultaneous signing and signing. £25.00
- **"I Get Around"**. An A5 handbook dealing with travel and transport. £7.50
- **"Hygiene Extra"** (with Inclusive Technology). An A5 book of signs to accompany the hygiene module of Inclusive's popular "Switch It" programme. £8.50
- **"Primary Numeracy"**. An A5 manual of signs for numeracy, devised in conjunction with Warren Wood Primary School and Language Unit, Rochester. £12.50
- **Widgit Foundation Maths Signing Companion**. Signs to support the Widgit Software Foundation Maths module. (The disc-based version for full integration into C.I.P will follow at a later date) £10.00

**Watch this space:** work in progress includes a revision of the Christmas Carol book to include a CD of printable song-sign sheets, a Widgit Reception Maths sign match

## SIGNALONG GOING TO THE WALL?

No this is not yet another financial appeal (see pages 1 and 4 for that!) but a lead-in to our sparkling new range of colour posters. These are printed on A3 160 gsm card and feature 10 to 12 signs, with bright colour drawings and full descriptions. Topics covered are:

Art & Craft	Colours	Days	Leisure	Numbers	Pets
Placements	Questions	Snacks	Sports	Taking A Stand	Weather

In preparation: Cyber bullying

They cost £3:50 each, but the price comes down to £2:50 if you order 4 or more. Postage is £2:50, and they are sent in a cardboard tube (rolled, not folded)

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