

South west Total Communication Network 24th May 2006 @ the Rugby Club, Yeovil

People who came;

Lynene McDonagh, Robert Hawken, Wendy Thiel, Terry Binding, John Farley, Rachel Gafney, Lynn Kelly, Katie Scott, Charlotte Rowe, Peter Keeves, Andrea Arnold, Katy Johns, Marion Hurley, Anne Kilpin, Leanne Mervin, Martin Cureton, Carol Robinson, Steve Maris.
Clare Garrard facilitated the day.



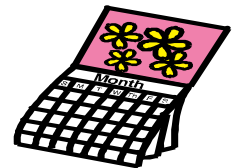
We talked about what we did at the last meeting. We looked at a leaflet about Total Communication and talked about how it could be changed for use by the network.

Mencap

Steve told us about an event about Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities. It will be in Salisbury in June. The things that are talked about at the meeting will be taken back to the Mencap Campaigns Department.

TC Calendar

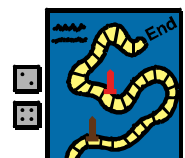
Andrea Arnold showed us a calendar which has been made in Australia. She is going to help to make a similar one in Devon.



We looked at three versions of the Bill of Rights and talked about how to change the words of the Easy Read one for use by the Network.

“Choices Game”

North Somerset People First. We found out how to play the game. It is a board game which uses photos to help people to talk about making decisions. We came up with a few suggestions about what to call the game.





Lunch



WASP (Words and Symbols Person) training, from Devon. 40 people have been trained so far. WASPs translate meetings into plain English and pictures using overhead projectors and easy to read minutes. This makes it easier for people to take part in meetings.

Total Communication Prize

We decided that entries will be short listed, then given to a joint meeting of the TC Network and the South West Forum for people with learning disabilities. Martin Cureton, John Farley, Clare Garrard and Carol Robinson will meet to make the shortlist. There will be two winners, and certificates for the runners-up.

More news from around the region;

Sensory Trust at Stourhead

Martin Cureton told us about their lakeside sensory trail. They use symbols in their leaflet, which is easy to read. They have audio tours and “tactile maps”. Tactile maps are for people with visual impairments so they can read the map with their fingers. There is more information about this on <http://www.nctd.org.uk/> - the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams.



Communication Development Plans

These plans have been used in Somerset for some time. They can be for people or for organisations. They are especially good for people who need more help with their communication. They are about the things that need to be done to make communication easier. They work really well because it is easy to see from the plan any progress which has been made.

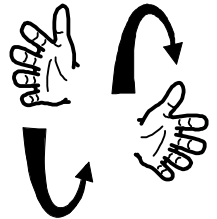
Easy information about inspections

Pete told us about a pack that he has made for the Commission for Social Care Inspection. It is to make it easier for people to contact inspectors, and to understand the reports that they write.



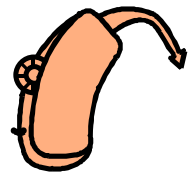
Signing in Cornwall

People in Cornwall have decided not to use just Makaton or just Signalong. Instead they are looking at the differences between them, and making their own set of signs from this. They also have sets of local symbols and photographs which they distribute.



Dorset Audiology Information

Dorset have developed a booklet and DVD about audiology. They are about having a hearing test, and how to use and look after hearing aids.



Listen to Us– DVD from Somerset

This DVD was made by people with learning disabilities. We watched one section called “How to Complain” about people who were unhappy about things happening in their lives. There were 3 sections, each about a different difficult situation. It ended with a section about what to do next if you want to complain. The DVD can be bought for £10 from Terry; Email: tbinding@somerset.gov.uk



National TC Network

Clare told us about what was going on with the network in other parts of the country. Pete has a contact for someone involved in the London network, which he will email to Clare. It seems at the moment that the South West, West Midlands and London are the regions having meetings.



We talked about ideas for helping the nationwide network to get stronger;

- We could write guidelines about how the South West Network is run, so that other areas can find out how we work.
- Invite people from other networks to our meetings.
- There needs to be someone in the Valuing People Support Team to work on Total Communication.
- We could link in with the groups that will be nominated for the Easy Info prizes.
- Put a discussion forum on the website so that people can post messages on it.

Actions from today:

- 1) **Clare** will work on the leaflet and the Bill of Rights, and will email these to everyone who was at today's meeting for feedback.
- 2) **Terry Binding** will email information about Knightstone Housing's Easy-read Tenancy agreements to Clare.
- 3) **Clare** will put these minutes on the website.
- 4) **Carol** will contact the volunteers about short-listing the accessible information entries.
- 5) **Pete** is going to email the presentation about the new packs for CSCI to Clare.

Thank you everyone for coming, and see you next time!

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**The South West Total Communication Network**  
[www.totalcommunication.co.uk](http://www.totalcommunication.co.uk)

