



# Total Communication South West Network 2nd July 2009

## 1) Introduction

48 people came to the meeting.

It was about Intensive Interaction

## 2) Intensive Interaction in Somerset



In the morning Jo Anthony and Sharron Merritt from Somerset shared their experiences of using Intensive Interaction.

They told us about the history of Intensive Interaction in Somerset, and about how staff who are doing I.I. are trained and supported.



We watched some film of people doing I.I.

There was time for some questions and answers.



Contact Sharron for more information:  
[SAMerritt@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SAMerritt@somerset.gov.uk)

### 3) Cath Irvine



Cath Irvine is one of the volunteer board of Directors for the Intensive Interaction Institute. You can read more about the Institute on [www.intensiveinteraction.co.uk](http://www.intensiveinteraction.co.uk).

She said that even though it is an effective and researched method of communication, for some reason it is not widely used, compared to for example, Makaton.



There is a South West Regional Network being set up by Steve Maris from Mencap ([steve.maris@mencap.org.uk](mailto:steve.maris@mencap.org.uk)).



The I.I. Institute has a Facebook page, so you can keep in touch with training and other news.

### 4) Sue Turner



Valuing People Now says that each region should choose something they want to work on.

In the South West the subject is **relationships**. There are lots of things happening here to support people with friendships and relationships. We would like to help people from across the region to share information and to think about what else needs to happen in their area. If you'd like to be involved, e-mail Sue on [sue.turner@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sue.turner@dh.gsi.gov.uk).



## 5) News from around the region



**Dorset:** 12 staff members have had I.I. Training with Dave Hewett and Cath Irvine and are now coordinators.



**Plymouth:** Total Communication Coordinators are meeting every few months to share experiences.



**Cornwall:** Communication Passport Workshops are being held. We need to work out how much difference Passports make to people.

We are also doing signing training. People with learning disabilities are employed as co-trainers.

We are also making good use of 42” plasma screens to help with learning.



**Penrose School:** Every child has a Communication Passport. This helps a lot with transition.



We also use TC resources like dinner mats with signs and symbols, and symbol keyrings for all staff to help them to communicate more easily.



**Somerset Total Communication:** We have just welcomed Sue, our new STC trainer to our team.



We have been working on a project with “I CAN” to help children in primary education with their communication. We hope that every child in pre-school will have access to Total Communication.



The second version of our signing CD-rom is out now.

For more information email STC at [stc@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stc@somerset.gov.uk).



The next meeting is on the 25th November 2009.  
Ivel Barbarians Rugby Club,  
Yeovil.

