

## MSI Study Day April 2019

# MSI NETWORKING CONTACTS



### MSI Network in the North

Seashell organises Intervenor network sessions every year. The day is based around free training and networking for Intervenors. It started with support from NatSIP and Sense but is now a feature of Seashell's commitment to staff development. The training topics are suggested by Intervenors and the specialist trainers offer their services free of charge.

Sessions are well attended, and in order to make it possible for more people to attend, two centres are involved now: one group in Bradford, in conjunction with the North Teachers Network, and one in the west at Seashell in Cheadle Hulme.

Meeting at the end of the school day is a very big ask for both participants and the trainer.

The networking participants now include Intervenors, staff working with MSI students and colleagues from sensory services.

Email: [Vimla.Ramrakhiani@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:Vimla.Ramrakhiani@seashelltrust.org.uk)



### The National Organisation of Intervenors – NOI

This Network work was established to support the professional development and status of the specialist support staff, working one-to-one with deafblind/MSI children and young people.

In the mid 1990's Government funding was provided to encourage models of good practice to support the highly individual needs of deafblind children in educational settings.

Since that time the number of Intervenors has grown and a training course is accredited and established in many areas of England and Wales.

Network days, held on Saturdays, have been a very important feature of the group and its "glue" is its Facebook page, which is members only, and provides a welcome place to exchange ideas and information with others doing the role.

Contact Jenny Fletcher, Jenny Taylor or Anne Cheesbrough. A warm welcome is guaranteed!

<https://www.facebook.com/group/1127462887269911/>

## **MSI/VI CEN** (multisensory and visual impairment clinical excellence network)

This is a Clinical Excellence Network group, registered under the umbrella of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Its aim is to share knowledge and practice, provide a network of support and to raise awareness of the needs of those with MSI and VI amongst other professionals and practitioners.

It is a national multi-professional group and has 2 meetings a year one in London and one elsewhere in the country.

Membership is annual currently £15 per year with an additional cost of £5 per meeting. Attendance at a one off meeting is £15.

[msvicen@gmail.com](mailto:msvicen@gmail.com)



**Deafblind**  
International DbI

*“DbI believes that international networks and the sharing of information is essential to the development of the specialist field of knowledge fostering the expertise of professionals...”*

### **Deafblind International Networks**

#### **Acquired Deafblindness Network**

The aim of ADBN exists to enable professionals within the field to share and, thereafter, develop best practice.

<http://adbn.deafblindinternational.org>

#### **Adapted Physical Activity Network**

APA is a practical approach to getting all people with a functional disability to participate in sport or movement with other people. It utilizes methods which make sport accommodating and accessible to everyone and focuses on possibilities not limitations.

**Contact: Mads Kopperholt**

[Mads.Kopperholt@rn.de](mailto:Mads.Kopperholt@rn.de)

#### **CHARGE Network**

This well-established networking group covers everything about CHARGE syndrome.

**Contact: Andrea Wanka**

[aw@andrea\\_wanka.de](mailto:aw@andrea_wanka.de)

<http://chargenetwork.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Communication Network**

This well-established network has given rise to research and development, published useful material and offers training. It is encouraging new members and welcomes everyone who wishes to listen, learn and contribute cross-nationally.

**Contact: Marleen Janssen**

[h.j.m.janssen@rug.nl](mailto:h.j.m.janssen@rug.nl)

<http://communication.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Outdoor Network**

*"...enjoying the natural environment..."*

Camping and cooking, walking and exploring hills and seaside, fishing from a boat, late night swimming, feeling the sun and wind on your face...just a few of the activities and ideas that this network encourages deafblind people to take part in ...and enjoy. Nervous professionals are welcome to learn.

**Contact: Joe Gibson**

[deafblindoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:deafblindoutdoors@gmail.com)

<http://outdoornetwork.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Research Network**

This is an active group with many research interests.

A variety of discussion groups exist: a Facebook Group with 169 current international members can be contacted at [\*\*https://www.facebook.com/groups/158743377518989\*\*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/158743377518989)

A LinkedIn group with 45 international members and 15 different streams can be contacted at [www.linkedin.com/group/8339692](http://www.linkedin.com/group/8339692)

**Contact: Walter Wittich**

[Walter.Wittich@umontreal.com](mailto:Walter.Wittich@umontreal.com)

<http://research.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Rubella Network**

Would you like to know more about the effects of rubella infection?

Would you like to connect with families and professionals working in the field?

**Contact: Nigel Turner**

[nigel.turner@sense.org.uk](mailto:nigel.turner@sense.org.uk)

<http://rubella.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Social Haptic Network**

Explore the notion of social haptic communication – broadly defined as the interaction of two or more people in a social context where messages are conveyed using the sense of touch. This network consists of professionals, deafblind people and family members who wish to share their experiences using socio-haptic techniques.

**Contact: Russ Palmer and Riitta Lahtinen**

[rpalmer2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rpalmer2@tiscali.co.uk) [riittalahtinen@icloud.com](mailto:riittalahtinen@icloud.com)

<http://socialhaptic.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Tactile Communication Network**

A long standing and well supported network ...join in! This lively network developed the DVD and companion guide "Landscape of Touch ...creating a shared understanding between all of us"

**Contact Paul Hart**

[phart@sensescotland.org.uk](mailto:phart@sensescotland.org.uk)

<http://tcp.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Youth Network (DBIYN)**

"For young people 14 - 25"

This network is dedicated to getting young people together socially to create opportunities for friendships to grow. Through Dbl it works internationally, bringing young people together from different countries and cultures.

Could your students benefit ... or are you interested in developing your own skills?

**Contact: Simon Allison**

[Simon.allison@sense.org.uk](mailto:Simon.allison@sense.org.uk)

<http://dbiyn.deafblindinternational.org>

## **Usher Network**

Are you keen to learn more about Usher syndrome?

Would you like to contribute to cross national discussion?

Would you like to connect with professionals and people with Usher to share and exchange ideas?

**Contact: Emma Boswell or Nadya Hoegner**

[info@usher.deafblindinternational.org](mailto:info@usher.deafblindinternational.org)

[nadja.hoegner@gmail.com](mailto:nadja.hoegner@gmail.com)

<http://usher.deafblindinternational.org>

## Conference Partners

### Sense

[www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)

Sense works for everyone living with complex disability. And for deafblind people. Sense believes that no one, no matter how complex their disability, should be isolated, left out or unable to fulfil their potential.

### Sense Branches

There are a number of branch groups across the country that enable people with an interest in deafblindness and associated disabilities to learn from and support each other. Many have been established for many years.

Branches operate **independently of Sense** and act **as local networks**. Do get in touch with the branch closest to you.

#### North West

Janet Carter email: [jcarter38@talktalk.net](mailto:jcarter38@talktalk.net)

#### West Midlands

Andy Durham email: [andy@techniswage.com](mailto:andy@techniswage.com)

#### Leicester

Lynda Jones email: [lynda.helen@talktalk.com](mailto:lynda.helen@talktalk.com)

#### East Anglia

Liz Royle email: [liz.royle@btopenworld.com](mailto:liz.royle@btopenworld.com)

#### HSI (Hearing Sight Impaired UK) South

Birgit Fiebig email: [birgit.fiebig@gmail.com](mailto:birgit.fiebig@gmail.com)

#### Avon

Rae Care email: [rae.care03@gmail.net](mailto:rae.care03@gmail.net)

#### Cornwall

Anne Kelly email: [annekelly21@uwclub.net](mailto:annekelly21@uwclub.net)

#### Devon

Clive Eden email: [clive\\_2805@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clive_2805@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Kent

Oliver Walder email: [oliver\\_walder@yahoo.com](mailto:oliver_walder@yahoo.com)

#### Wales: North and Mid Wales

Jane Plant email: [family\\_plant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:family_plant@yahoo.co.uk)

### NATSIP

<https://www.natsip.org.uk/>

**NatSIP**, the **National Sensory Impairment Partnership** is a partnership of many organisations, working together to improve outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairment.

**The NatSIP website** offers access to a wealth of relevant SI resources, which are freely available. It organises and facilitates a wide range of training opportunities and regional networking events and represents the sector at the highest levels of national policy making.

Be part of this! Please register on the website for full access to everything **NatSIP** has to offer.

Registration is free and open to anyone.

## Seashell Trust

<http://www.seashelltrust.org.uk/>

[info@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@seashelltrust.org.uk)

Seashell Trust is a national charity supporting children and young adults with complex learning disabilities and additional communication needs from across the UK.

It provides education and care, from 2 – 25 years, at *Ofsted* rated “outstanding” school and college and through our short breaks services. It runs regular training and staff development opportunities also has an award-winning inclusive sport programme.

## Victoria School (Multi-Sensory Impairment Department)

<http://www.victoria.bham.sch.uk/msi.htm>

At the Victoria MSI Unit, pupils follow a specialist curriculum to help them learn to understand and interact with people and the world around them. It has very high levels of staffing - 1:1 for many activities - and of expertise, with ongoing specialist training for all staff.

The specialist curriculum was developed at Victoria to meet the complex needs of pupils with MSI. It was published in 2009 by Sense, and is now used in other settings and services for children with MSI in the UK and round the world. A “Toolkit” is also available to assist those wishing to start using it.

Victoria is an *Ofsted* rated Outstanding school.

## University of Birmingham School of Education

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx>

Email: [multisensoryimpairment@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:multisensoryimpairment@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

The School of Education has a long-standing reputation as a centre of excellence for teaching and research in a wide range of areas of educational practice and policy. It is an international leader in education and has a history of top rated research.

Dr Liz Hodges leads the course “Education for Learners with multi-sensory impairment (deafblind)”: the first in the world to encourage post graduate study in this area. MEd/BPhil/ Postgraduate Diploma/ Advanced Certificate are all offered. Graduates from this course form the core of specialist teachers working in schools, advisory services, in voluntary sector and in staff training.