



SMS EMERGENCY SERVICE If you cannot make voice calls, you can now contact the 999 emergency services by SMS text from your mobile phone. Emergency SMS is part of the standard 999 service which has been designed specifically for people with hearing loss or difficulty with speech. You will only be able to use this service if you have registered with Emergency SMS first.

Register now: don't wait for an emergency. To register, text 'register' to 999. You will get a reply –then follow the instructions you are sent. For more information go to: www.emergencysms.org.uk



Contact Scotland gave a presentation to Fife staff and the deaf community at the Town House Kirkcaldy, detailing Scotland's British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreting Video Relay Service. It connects BSL users with all of Scotland's public bodies and third sector organisations.

For details of how BSL users can register for the service, visit: <http://contactscotland-bsl.org/reg/> Staff who want to contact a BSL user call 0131 510 4555 to connect to the online interpreter. The person you are calling needs to have downloaded the contact SCOTLAND-BSL/interpreternow software app and be connected to the internet.

The Scottish Government has announced plans to integrate the use of BSL into everyday life. [The British Sign Language National Plan 2017-23](#) gives full details. Fife Adult Support & Protection Committee are working with the Deaf Communication Service on BSL videos about Adult Protection Easy Read booklets. These will be available at the end of the year.



DISABILITY HATE CRIME With recent news that a man with learning difficulties was badly hurt in an attack near Kirkcaldy bus station, we take this opportunity to remind people that hate crime or harassment can happen anywhere. It includes things like calling you names, hitting you or damaging your home or property. If this happens to you, and you are in danger call **999**. If it is not an emergency, call the Police on **101** or the Adult Protection Phone

Line on **01383 602200**.

Fife Adult Protection Committee's booklet 'Disability Hate Crime' gives more information. Paper copies are available by emailing: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk or call 03451 55 55 55 ext. 442134. You can report online using the Safer Communities [Anti-Social Behaviour reporting form](#). Further info is on the [Safer Communities](#) and [Adult Support & Protection](#) webpages.



[resources/videos/](#)

[I Am Me](#) is a community charity that works in partnership with Police Scotland to raise awareness of and tackle disability hate crime. Their free Disability Hate Crime (Adult and High School) resource & accompanying film can be accessed here: <http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/training-and-educational-resources/disability-hate-crime-training-resource/> All Films can be accessed here: [http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/training-and-educational-](http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/training-and-educational-resources/videos/)



HATE HAS NO HOME IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government joined Police Scotland and the Crown Office to launch the 'Hate has no home in Scotland' campaign during Hate Crime Awareness Week. It aims to increase public understanding of what hate crime is, and how to report it.

More than 5,300 cases of hate crime were reported in Scotland over the past year. Find out more at: <http://onescotland.org/campaigns/hate-crime-campaign/> and www.hatecrimescotland.org.uk



ILL TREATMENT AND WILFUL NEGLECT

The Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016 includes offences of ill-treatment or wilful neglect which are now in force. The new offences apply to care workers and care providers and their organisations, recognising the particular vulnerabilities of those receiving health and social care as well as the level of trust placed in those providing that care.



SURVIVING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Fife Adult Support & Protection Committee in partnership with Communities and Neighbourhoods are promoting their survival guide to the Festive Season. It provides useful tips and hints plus links to organisations that can provide support and advice at a time of year when many people find it difficult to cope. It is available as a 28 page A5 booklet, or A7 wallet sized. To request an electronic version or paper copies contact: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk



This takes place on 24 November with the theme 'Making Connections, Getting Support'. Having the right information at the right time can make a huge difference when you are looking after someone. Further information at: <http://www.fifecarerscentre.org/>

and <http://www.carersuk.org/scotland> including the [Looking After Someone](#) guide.



SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN – YOUR VIEWS

The Scottish Human Rights Commission would like to hear your views about what you think should be included in Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights and what you think about the state of human rights in Scotland. Fill out the 10 minute survey online at: <http://www.ghn.org.uk/allin/snap/> If you would like the survey in another language or a different format, or to complete it with telephone support, call: 0141 420 72 72



SURVIVORS OF ABUSE IN CARE

A consultation is open for victims/survivors of abuse in care to give their opinions about a potential financial compensation/redress scheme for those who experienced abuse in care in Scotland. An options paper will then be produced for Scottish Government to consider when making its decision on whether to establish a

compensation scheme. Complete it online at: www.celcis.org/redressconsultation Request a paper copy at: celcis-redress@strath.ac.uk or call 0808 800 0031 (Mon & Thurs 9.30am – 4pm or Tues 9.30am – 7pm). They will include a FREEPOST envelope. Consultation closes on 17 November.



BRIGHTSIDE COMMUNITY CAFÉ was opened six months ago at Bandrum Nursing Home, West Fife and is open Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat 11am to 3pm for food and refreshments. Their Befriending project is looking to recruit volunteers who will be fully trained then matched with residents. For info contact Michelle Graham on 07869 581 599 or e: info@brightsidecommunitycafe.org.uk



RESOURCES FOR STAFF: New Operational Guidance: Responding to a need for service for Young Adults aged 16 and 17

This operational guidance is intended to clarify the pathways for young adults to receive appropriate services and to support decision making for social work practitioners in Education and Children's Services and Health and Social Care within Fife. It covers both current cases and new referrals.

This guidance has been a collaborative effort between Education and Children's Service and Adult Services and has included consultation with staff from both groups. The guidance came into effect on 2nd October 2017 and is available on Fife Council intranet [here](#).

Professionals are encouraged to utilise this new guidance, and [Child Protection](#) and [Adult Support and Protection](#) local guidance where appropriate while applying their collective professional judgement.