

## RCSLT Scotland News



Your regular round up of the key news and events affecting SLTs in Scotland

### RCSLT Scotland AGM

On 28 August 60 members attended the Scottish annual meeting in the Murray Royal Infirmary in Perth. The meeting was chaired by Country Councillor Kay Fegan who introduced the speakers and kept the programme on schedule. The morning sessions included contributions from RCSLT Chairman of Council, Rosalind Rogers; Chief Executive, Kamini Gadhok and Scotland Officer, Kim Hartley, bringing members up to date on what College is doing and what projects are afoot.



*(From L to R Kay Fegan, Hilary Hood, Rosalind Rogers)*

A presentation was made to Rebecca Rodger, who won the 2006 student prize for her research into ASD.

An abstract of Rebecca's work can be found on the RCSLT website

<http://www.rcslt.org/government/scotlandagm>

Kay Fegan also made a presentation to Hilary Hood who is retiring later this year. She has been a practising Speech Therapist for 40 years and during recent years has overseen major changes in the service in Tayside.



*(from L to R Kay Fegan, Mary Turnbull, Rebecca Rodgers, Rosalind Rogers)*

An opportunity for discussion of the way forward was next on the agenda and the meeting split into five groups to look at where members would like RCSLT in Scotland to concentrate its efforts on their behalf. This session was very productive and the action plan distilled from these sessions will be circulated

shortly to members who attended the meeting and will also be available on the website

<http://www.rcslt.org/government/scotland>.

After lunch RCSLT professional services development manager, Dominique Lowenthal, presented a detailed and informative view of developments in CPD. She focussed on reflective writing and provided suggestions on how members could record their progress. Members found this excellent presentation very helpful and it was unfortunate that more time could not be found to allow for more in depth discussion on the subject. This presentation can also be viewed on the website.

<http://www.rcslt.org/cpd/reflectivewritingelearning>

Kay Fegan brought proceedings to a close at 4pm as some members had travelled a considerable distance to attend the meeting. It was a good opportunity to catch up on what has been happening in the RCSLT in Scotland

and nationally and gave members a chance to network and discuss concerns with colleagues from different areas. Judging by the feedback from members a similar event in the future would be welcome and Scotland Board will be looking at ideas for the next time.

### **We're Moving**



Some members will already be aware that Scotland Office is on the move. After five years as subtenants of NES at 21 Queen Street our lease has come to an end. We are going to 49 North Castle Street, with entry in early December.

These premises will be leased by CSP and RCSLT and the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists (SCP) will be subtenants. The new offices are on the ground floor of a New Town property. Limited meeting room facilities can be provided by arrangement with co-tenants, SCP. Please

contact Mary if you require information on the facilities available. [mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org](mailto:mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org)

In the short term, RCSLT will be moving into temporary offices in the Melting Pot which is at 5 Rose Street in central Edinburgh.

Arrangements have been made for forwarding of mail and the diversion of telephone calls and staff will endeavour to maintain normal service to members during the interim period of five weeks.

### **Communications Forum Scotland (CFS)**

During the past couple of years Kim Hartley (pictured below) has been involved with the ground work for a Communications Forum Scotland. The steering committee arranged a meeting on 29 October to formalise the organisation and sign up members.



RCSLT was represented by Country Councillor, Kay Fegan, and Kim Hartley.



*Kay Fegan*

It is hoped that CFS will provide a bigger collective voice for representatives of users, providers and other organisations for whom communication is an issue. A follow up meeting is being arranged.

### **Augmentative & Alternative Communication in Scotland Campaign**

In another joint campaign with AAC groups and Capability Scotland, RCSLT have been lobbying MSPs with a view to pressing for greater provision of AAC. A survey of SLTs has revealed widely differing results from different areas of the country, but **“many of those who responded commented on the lack of funding for aids to communication”**

and of delays in provision due to the need for funding to be sought on an individual basis. A report on progress of the campaign will be made in a later newsletter. If you would like to support this campaign, please contact Mary at Scotland Office.  
[mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org](mailto:mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org)

**Allied Health Professions Forum Scotland (AHPFS)**  
Moira Little and Kim Hartley represent RCSLT on the AHPFS. A major project of AHPFS this year was the joint conference which was hosted by AHPFS and AHP Education Forum entitled 'Working Together'.  
**“This conference was addressed by Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and Professor Sir Kenneth Calman and other eminent speakers.”**

It was an excellent opportunity to bring together members of different professions to look at the benefits of working closely together for the benefit of the patient – and the Conference also heard the comments of one of the patients. This was extremely interesting and provided food for thought on a number of improvements that might have helped her

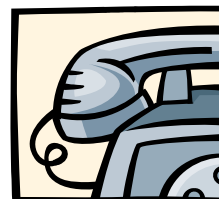
adjust to her changed circumstances.  
**RCSLT goes to SNP Conference**  
Kim Hartley, together with the Policy Officers from CSP and SCP, attended the SNP Conference in Aviemore under the AHPFS banner and took advantage of the opportunities this afforded to catch the attention of politicians, the public and the media.

**This year's Campaigns**  
Policy & Partnership team campaigns for the coming year include Stroke campaign, AAC, and CFS. If you can contribute to any of these please contact Kim Hartley  
[kim.harley@rcslt.org](mailto:kim.harley@rcslt.org)  
or Kay Fegan to discuss how you can become involved.  
[kay.fegan@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.fegan@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk)

**Getting things on RCSLT Board Agendas**  
A paper on how to get things onto Board Agendas was approved by Council and can be found on the website.

**Communication with members**  
The RCSLT has noted your comments that there is a need for more communication with the membership and we hope you have found

this Scotland Board Newsletter informative and helpful. Over the coming months it is our intention to keep you up to date on RCSLT policies and also to feature members of the Board and staff so that you know who represents you on the Committees and Council of RCSLT.



Please remember that communication is a two-way process and that we want to hear from you: have you any concerns you'd like us to highlight or address? Lead links were designed to allow members to feed back through the system in the same way as information is cascaded to members, but there does not appear to be much coming back to links: does this mean you are all happy?



**Do** use the system to communicate with us and tell us what you think of the Newsletter or contact Scotland Office by e-mail: Mary McFarlane  
[mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org](mailto:mary.mcfarlane@rcslt.org)  
or Kim Hartley  
[kim.hartley@rcslt.org](mailto:kim.hartley@rcslt.org)  
or give us a call on 0131 226 5250.

