



Welcome

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of Inspire's monthly Family Matters newsletter for the families and loved ones of the people we support.

We have had yet another very busy month and I have really enjoyed being back out and about attending some of our 'Added Value' activities - including one of our Supper Clubs at Cafe Ahoy - and visiting some services recently. It has also been great to see the return of some large-scale fundraising events locally for the first time in a couple of years and my thanks go to everyone who represented and raised funds for Inspire at Run Garioch and in the Aberdeen Kiltwalk.

We continue to work hard to address the ongoing challenge of recruitment within the social care sector and have this month focussed on service and area specific campaigns with an Open Day held in Inverurie - within our new Inspire...By premises - and further ones planned for Stonehaven and Banchory next month. We are seeing an improvement in terms of application numbers and hope that this will continue over the Summer months.

Another focus in May has been working closely with Aberdeenshire Council around the maintenance of those properties where they are the landlord, and we have set up a working group to ensure that all of our Care Homes in the area are up to standard. I know this was something that was discussed at the last Family Engagement session.

As ever, if you have any queries at all about any aspect of your family members' support then please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via email on families@inspiremail.org.uk or by speaking to staff at their service.

Linda Gray, CEO

Inspire Summer BBQ 2022 - Update

Following careful consideration and much debate we have taken the decision that our planned annual Summer BBQ cannot go ahead as an all Inspire in-person event this year and will instead once again be a virtual event - as it was in 2020 and 2021.

Whilst we would have loved to have gone ahead with the event as planned, the logistical challenges of safely getting up to 200 people together, coupled with the continued enhanced guidance for health and social care staff in relation to eating and drinking and ongoing organisational staffing challenges, means that we believe it is more sensible if the BBQ is a virtual event again this year.

As in the previous two years we will provide our services with some funding to enable them to source the food, drink and decorations that the people supported there would choose and will have some activities on Zoom available on the day that everyone can log-into and catch-up with friends from across the organisation.

The participation levels in last year's virtual BBQ were brilliant with lots of services putting in a power of work to make the occasion special for the people we support and we are confident that this year's event will receive a similar positive response.



Inspire...By Inverurie To Open In June

We are pleased to confirm that our new Inspire...By Charity Shop & Workshop will open to the public with a 'soft-launch' from Monday, June 6th.

This will be followed by an Official Opening a couple of weeks later attended by invited guests.

We have been overwhelmed by the positive reaction to the shop from both the Inspire and local Inverurie community and have been inundated with donations and kind wishes. We are really excited about opening the doors for business in a couple of weeks - please pop past to say hello the next time you are in Inverurie after June 6th.



June Family Engagement Session

Our next scheduled Family Engagement session will take place on **Thursday, June 23rd from 6pm-7.30pm** and is again open to all the family and friends of the people we support.



Whilst our hope is to be able to consider hosting in-person sessions of some form in 2022, the June session will again be held on Zoom following discussion and agreement with those present at the last session.

As ever, anyone who would like to book a slot can do so by contacting Andrew Reid on andrew.reid@inspiremail.org.uk or by calling 07779108894.

We look forward to hopefully seeing you there in a few weeks time.

Newsletter Feedback & Contact Information



We hope that you continue to find Family Matters a useful and interesting resource.

Please do get in touch with us with any comments - positive or negative - that you may have and any thoughts on what you would like to see more, or indeed less of, in the newsletter going forward throughout 2022. Your feedback is vital in ensuring this communication continues to achieve its aims.

You can contact us on families@inspiremail.org.uk or call Andrew Reid on 07779108894 to pass on any feedback you might have or if you wish to speak to us about anything at all.

Booth Scotland Ltd Donation

We were delighted to receive a fantastically generous donation from a local company at our soon-to-open Inspire...By Charity Shop and Workshop in Inverurie recently.

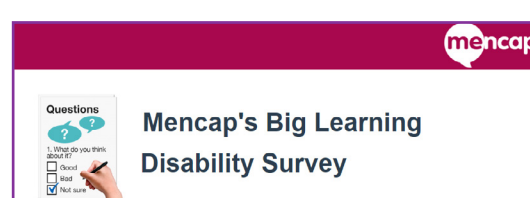
Following a visit to the new premises, where they had a chance to look around and meet some of the people we support, Booth Scotland Ltd kindly donated a washing machine and tumble dryer to us. This will make a huge difference to our operation and we are really grateful for the support.

BOOTH
SCOTLAND LTD.



Learning Disability Survey - Please Consider Participating

Mencap's Big Learning Disability Survey - which aims to encourage adults with learning disabilities across the UK to share their experiences of everyday life and what matters to them - is now live and we would encourage you to work with your loved ones to take part wherever possible.



The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Activities Co-ordinator Blog



Activities Co-ordinator, Sarah Farquhar has been looking back over the last month in her latest blog which you can read [here](#).

Remember you can see the full activities programme for June [here](#) and should contact christopher.simpson@inspiremail.org.uk if you would like to attend any events.

We have continued to grow our in-person activities' offering throughout May with a further Supper Club being held in Aberdeen, a trampolining session in Inverurie, a visit to Aberdeen Sports Village, Beer Tasting session with a local brewer from Stonehaven and the re-establishment of our Walking Group.

Stonehaven Recruitment Campaign

The people we support at Inspire...ByStonehaven were out and about recently with Activities Co-ordinator, Sarah Farquhar, helping to spread the word about the vacancies we currently have within the town.

Everyone had a great day and we were delighted with the support that we received from the local community in terms of allowing us to display posters or leave leaflets. Thanks to everyone for being so welcoming.



Inspire Sunflower Growing Competition 2022

We were delighted to be able to officially launch Inspire's annual Sunflower Growing competition for 2022 earlier this month and even more pleased to be able to announce we have a sponsor this year.

We want to say a massive thank you to Phil Anderson Financial Services in Ellon (<https://www.philandersonfinancial.co.uk>) who kindly donated the sunflower seeds. These have now been distributed to services and the competition is officially underway.



As in previous years there will be a prize for the tallest sunflower and we will report on progress and reveal the winner in future editions of Family Matters.

Run Garioch 2022



What a day we had at Run Garioch 2022! From the volunteers, including the people we support and staff, to everyone that ran for us (which included staff also), thank you so much for being part of a hugely successful day for Inspire!

The weather was hot and humid but everyone battled on across the 5km, 10km and Half Marathon that took runners through the Inverurie countryside and into the town for the finish.

20 people ran for us on the day and raised an amazing **£6,500** that will make a positive difference to the lives of the people we support.

Read the story with full-size images on our website [here](#).

What's up Inspire!?



Old photo



2022

Chris recently came across an old photo of Gary from Holland Street Ice-Skating so reached out to see if he would be interested in going again. Gary had a brilliant time and squealed with laughter when he went fast on the straights.



Shelby from Windmill Brae, enjoyed a wonderful day out at Discovery Dundee.



Danielle, who is supported by Aberdeen CLP, enjoyed some bowling recently!



Grant, Marie and Irene from Aberdeenshire CLP and Lissa and Rachael from Hollybank enjoyed a trip to Innoflate at the beach in Aberdeen recently. They had great fun bouncing about!



Michael from Holland Street recently went on a day trip to Deep Sea World Aquarium in North Queensferry.



Johnny and Michael from Donald Dewar Court had a great trip to Comic Con!



Aimee (Angus CLP) and support worker Melanie enjoyed a trip to the V&A in Dundee.



Brian from Peterhead made a model boat! He loves the Bay City Rollers so he has named it after them.



Joan, supported by Aberdeen CLP, went out for her birthday lunch recently because she wasn't able to have a birthday meal on her actual birthday - she had a great time!