



## STC Christmas 2015 Newsletter



### Hello Everyone

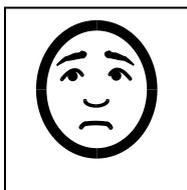
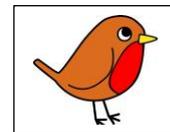
Christmas is fast approaching and after the stresses and concerns incurred with spending cuts, I think we are all looking forward to a well-earned break.



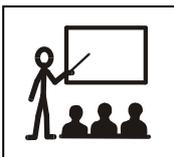
### What's been Happening?

Having worked for Somerset Total Communication for about 12 years, I have decided the time is right to move on to new pastures. I have so enjoyed being part of the essential STC team, meeting many of you, or at the very least speaking over the phone or via email. I hope that you continue to access STC and it helps you support communication needs for people throughout Somerset and beyond.

Best wishes *Caroline Male*



### Training delivered since September 2015:



SEN&D Team half day workshop  
Avishayes and Hazelbury Plucknett Schools half day taster sessions  
Churchfield Primary School parents workshop  
Induction training course delivered at Westover School Bridgwater including staff from other schools, in September 2015.  
Louise promoted STC and SLT as a Career at One Step Foundation Somerset Careers Fair in Bridgwater attended by over 3,500 students, staff and parents and a workshop for those involved in supporting people bereaved.

Article from **Jemma Lang**, the Engagement and Participation Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN&D)

## Meet the Engagement and Participation Team for SEND Reforms



From left to right; Ellen (Young Person's Champion), Jemma (Engagement and Participation Officer) and Shane (Young Person's Champion)

The team joined Somerset County Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Our aim is to **develop links** with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN&D) and their families in Somerset. We will **ensure full participation of children and young people** in planning and decision making to help implement the new SEN&D Reforms as outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014.

We are looking to create a **County Wide Young People's Forum** to ensure that young people in Somerset are engaged and participating in decision making. We hope to set up a "talk to me" group of young people who are able to give their thoughts and views on subjects over phone, email or online. For example, talk about their experiences of services they have received, what they have liked and give suggestions for how services can be improved. Further to that, we aim to set up a group of members who wish to take a more active role; this could include attending meetings and relevant events. Training and on-going support will be provided.

Watch this space. We are working towards a plan for how the forum will run. If you know of any children and young people who would be interested in this opportunity please contact us to express an interest on the details below.

The Young People's Champions can be available to attend meetings, present at events and support consultations for example. Please get in touch if you have any requests.

**Jemma Lang**  
[jxlang@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jxlang@somerset.gov.uk)

**Office: 01823 359868**  
**Mobile: 07469 413359**

## New Resources

Do let us know any new signing vocabulary you need eg Kindle/text speak etc especially what young people need. What do they say about STC?

Tel: 01278 444949 Fax No: 01278 447114 Email: [stc@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stc@somerset.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/stc>

Jessica Wintrip from Trull has shared some new resources they use. The first is a symbols key ring that children use to show when they have hurt themselves at lunchtime to find out what hurts and to explain treatment. Also a visual tool to help children explain why they are feeling upset at playtime/lunchtime or in the classroom.



## Resources:

- Mood wrist bands and other good resources available from: [www.asdvisualaids.com](http://www.asdvisualaids.com)  
When feeling happy the child/adult wears the green side saying 'Happy to talk'  
When feeling upset the child/adult flips the band over to red side saying 'Please leave me alone'
- Please remember that Signing books are purchased from STC.
- Resources and reference books are available for STC Coordinators to borrow from STC base. If a school holds a Gold School subscription with Resources for Learning they can be delivered on the RFL van free of charge.

NB: This is the link to SLT website where you can find information and a referral form for SLT:

<http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-and-young-people/integrated-therapy-service/>

## STC Schools and Community training dates 2016

Training	Venue	Date	Time
STC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	STC Base, Bridgwater TA6 4RL	21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	1pm to 4.30pm
STC Workshops See below	STC Base, Bridgwater TA6 4RL	Various	various
Intensive Interaction Day	SCIL, Taunton TA2 7QP	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	9.30 – 4.00 pm

Please contact STC on 01278 444949 or [stc@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stc@somerset.gov.uk)

**Signing Workshop**– designed for you to practise signing and learn new sign vocabulary from the STC website

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

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 1.30 – 4.00 pm

**Accessible Information workshop** – Some advice to your question: ‘How do I make Information easier to understand, using photos, symbols and other visual communication?’

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 1.30 – 4.00 pm

**STC Basic Strategies** – workshop with a Speech & Language Therapist to discuss basic ways to support people living with speech, language and communication needs

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

**STC Parents & Carers Workshop** – workshop aimed at parents & carers of children with Speech and Language Communication needs to develop ways of supporting communication at home.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 9.45 am – 12.15 pm

**How much does it cost?** Each workshop costs £20 per person for STC members and £35 per person for non-members. Participants will receive an Attendance Certificate on completion of a workshop.

Louise says “I hope you understand the message”

**“May your Christmas be surrounded by...”**



## Update of the SSE review of STC



South Somerset & Mendip STC Coordinators Network Meeting – some of the Coordinators in Somerset Dental Service, Schools and other Services Nov 2015

The focus of the meeting has been

- To find out your ideas for a future Coordinator refresher session
- To discuss the development of online learning modules and consider which elements of the present Induction course coordinators feel confident in championing?
- What supporting materials should be available?
- Which other SLCN websites do Coordinators use?

Louise shared the current situation: STC has moved from Adult Social Care to become part of Support Services for Education (SSE) alongside other SEN support services in April 2015. By the end of the financial year 2015 -16 STC will:

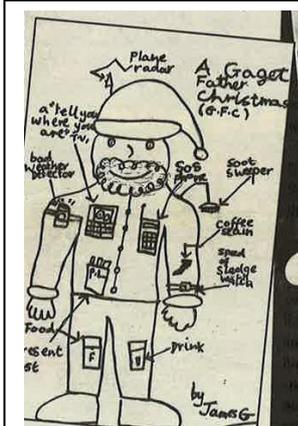
- operate on a full cost recovery basis to ensure financial viability,
- develop a professional maintenance structure for the future STC model.

The SLCN strategic steering group, chaired by Rick Beaver, are radically reviewing all aspects of the current STC model. 4 'task and finish groups' from the SLCN group are focussing on:.

- Review of STC training structure and how this is financed and delivered
- How STC resources are maintained and developed
- Business viability, STC membership, possible involvement of SCIL/SSTEP
- STC Strategy Oversight with representatives from ALD,LSS, and other partners

Market research questionnaire is being used to gain people's views on STC for SSE:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNTMZ6D](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNTMZ6D)



### Gadget Father Christmas has:

- soot sweeper
- coffee stain
- speed of sledge watch
- SOS phone
- drink
- present list
- food
- bad weather detector
- a 'Tell you where you are TV'
- plane radar

## Help Wanted Please for 'Baby Signing'

Caroline Thick, Community Nurse (Somerset Partnership) emailed STC:  
Are you interested in sharing 'How we use signing within the STC approach'?  
Caroline Thick (Health Visitor team) asks us for help:

"We run a Post-natal group weekly and have speakers in to give short information talks, such as fire safety, dental health, family health, weaning, minor illness. The mums asked if there was any way we could do a baby signing session. It is an informal group held at Oakland's Children Centre on Monday's 1.30-3pm on a 3 month rolling programme. I suspect baby signing would be a popular session. The speaker would not need to stay the length of the group."

Contact: [Caroline.Thick@sompar.nhs.uk](mailto:Caroline.Thick@sompar.nhs.uk) or leave a message on the main office number 03003230119.

## STC Schools & Community Co-ordinator Network Meeting - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 Holway Centre TA1 2JP

Network	Date & Time of next meeting
W Somerset Schools (STC Core Team) 01278 444949	Invited to Taunton
Somerset Coast – Sedgemoor Schools Chandos House Kate Holloway/ STC Core Team 01823 334475	Invited to Taunton
South Somerset – Yeovil & Chard Schools (STC Core Team) 01278 444949	Invited to Taunton
Mendip & Avalon Schools (STC Core Team) 01278 444949stc	Invited to Taunton
Taunton Schools Kate Holloway/ STC Core Team	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 1.30 – 3.00 pm Holway Centre TA1 2JB



We would like to invite you to come and join in the

### 2015 Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

St Andrew's Church

Greenway Avenue, Taunton, TA2 6HU

1.30 pm



Somerset Skills & Learning in partnership with Somerset Total Communication and St Andrew's Church are arranging an inclusive Carol Service.

The service includes performances, readings and carol singing. Signers and information technology will help to make this service accessible to everyone.



We would be pleased to see you at this Total Communication Service.

Further details: Penny Gibbons or Sharon Koppa  
Middle Street, Minehead, TA24 5JH 01643 702986  
[pgibbons@sslcic.co.uk](mailto:pgibbons@sslcic.co.uk) or [skoppa@sslcic.co.uk](mailto:skoppa@sslcic.co.uk)

**Somerset**  
Skills & Learning CIC

**Especially parents of children with SEN & D who would like to see what adults with learning disabilities achieve.**

## Autumn/Christmas Signing

autumn	working hand palm down moves down from supporting fingers fluttering to indicate leaves falling
leaves	Working index and thumb extended. Supporting little finger extended. Working fingers touch supporting finger tip then moves away opening and closing in leaf shape.
conkers	Mime hitting a conker
fog	2 open hands palms facing out, move in front of face in alternate slow vertical circles
rain	Hands move down from head height, fingers fluttering to indicate rain
apple	Mime biting an apple
blackberry	black + berry (supporting index extended. Working bunched. Mime picking berry off supporting finger tip)
angel	2 flat hands crossed at wrists held against chest so that palms face each other
candle	Rest heel of working hand on tip of supporting index and flutter fingers
Christmas	Tips of working hand brush backwards against back of supporting hand, then working hand closes and moves down onto back of supporting or mime holding sack over shoulder
Christmas crackers	Christmas + Mime pulling a cracker
Jesus	extended middle fingers of both hands. Right and left alternately touch opposite palm
frost	Sign 'f' plus 'ice' working clawed hand, palm down, fingers open, flexing to clawed hands, backwards towards body)
King	Clawed hand -place fingertips on head + 'man'
shepherd	Sheep (Little fingers move forward/down in circular movement from sides of face) + 'man'
New Year's Day	New + Y + Day
orange	Mime squeezing an orange beside mouth

**Best wishes for a Very  
Happy Christmas from the  
STC Team  
Louise Lisle & Caroline  
Male**

