

A SENSATIONALL MISSION

It is our mission to provide **therapy-based** services and activities for children and adults living with **any disability** or **support need**.

ALL
AGES

ALL
CONDITIONS

ALL
FAMILY
MEMBERS

We **empower** families to address the challenges that complex conditions present by equipping them with practical techniques, knowledge and advice. Our centre offers a safe place to access specialist facilities and support, **a place where they belong** and can be themselves.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN



Relaxing in the sensory room

Malcolm's story

10 year old Malcolm has Autism and as a result has limited communication, his family have been regularly attending SensationALL for a number of years to get support. Malcolm's parents have struggled to access suitable activities where they could drop him off and where his sister would be welcomed as a sibling.

SensationALL's Inclusive Social Group provides much needed respite for his parent's whilst Malcolm and his sister socialise and interact with other children.

Malcolm's limited communication is not an issue as staff use picture symbols and visual aids so he can express his likes/dislikes and choices. Malcolm's progress has been significant with his confidence growing and he has gradually begun using more complex language.

Malcolm's mum & dad have noticed improvements in the way he interacts with others, his ability to take turns and his speech. He is also better at playing games and structured activities.

We are committed to offering early intervention for young children. It is our aim to help families with concerns about their child's learning, motor skills, sensory processing, behaviour, communication or general development.

As we know how confusing, stressful and often lengthy the diagnostic process can be our services are designed to support families struggling to access appropriate help and advice.

A formal diagnosis is not required to access SensationALL's services

"My son & daughter have benefited enormously from attending SensationALL. The staff are amazing with Malcolm and the best part is he feels included."

Malcolm's dad

70%

of our service users are under 16 years old



Malcolm enjoying bowling

SUPPORTING TEENAGERS



Teen SociALLise with visitors from Dekko Comics

Our services for teenagers (promoting social skills and self esteem whilst providing community experiences) have gone from strength to strength this year.

Teen SociALLise had an exceptional year with themed sessions, a BBQ, several outings in addition to all the usual activities. We even held joint sessions with the local Dyslexia branch bringing in specialist speakers (as in above photo).

The self development and increased confidence of the teenagers is evident to see and the skills they learn will improve their resilience and tolerance, equipping them for the wider world around them.

50%
of service users
have Autism

Craig's Story

Craig has ADHD and Autism and started attending our Teen SociALLise group when he was 16. Craig had good communication skills however, he tended to withdraw from conversation and rarely initiated contact with staff or peers as he found social situations difficult. His way of coping with social anxiety was to be energetic and loud which at school often led to him being the butt of other's jokes. He also didn't like to share information about himself and struggled to make meaningful friendships.

After attending SociALLise for a while, Craig's tendency towards impulsive behaviour settled down and with the support of staff he became more integrated in activities and even started to share experiences in group discussions. This led to a very productive session on the topic of bullying when the group offered a lot of peer support and respect to each other with Craig making significant contributions.

Over time Craig's confidence and self-esteem have developed and he is now forthcoming in talking about and demonstrating his interests (such as martial arts and card tricks!) which highlights great self development and maturity. He even felt ready to challenge himself by volunteering at some of our groups for younger children and staff have praised his enthusiasm and positive outlook.

Craig now attends a full time, supported course at NESCOL and has even got a part time job in a local shop. He continues to attend SociALLise because as his mum says *"the group is so valuable"* to him.

The future looks bright for Craig!

"Craig has always been a bit lost in life. He has come on so well in the last year, showing more responsibility at home and he loves volunteering. We're really proud of him and grateful for the fantastic work the staff have put in with him."

Craig's mum



Craig showing the group his martial arts

SUPPORTING ADULTS



Monday Mayhem was one of our foundational services and with it's successful format of baking/snack making, crafts and music providing great social opportunities for adults with support needs and disabilities it continues to be a staple in our timetable.

Our adult services are continually developing as it is important to us that we adapt to the evolving needs of our beneficiaries.

Main aims of our Adult groups are:

- to become empowered to develop new skills within the group
- to benefit from positive experiences with peers & develop social skills
- to develop independence skills that can be used outwith SensationALL

45%

of our services
are for adults

"Gabrielle's face always lights up when the staff welcome her. She likes watching all the 'goings on' in the group and loves being involved in activities, especially when she gets to operate the specially adapted food mixer. It's fantastic to see that someone with limited speech and physical ability can be included and get so much enjoyment from our sessions."

Suz Strachan, Service Manager



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

We pride ourselves on being needs led, taking a flexible, responsive approach to our service users. This year we have increased the frequency of children's social groups (for primary ages & teenagers), carried out more 'Tea & Tips' advice consultations, introduce new holiday sessions (listening walk, drumming, music therapy, fairy door making, siblings sessions and puppet shows!). All of which means we have helped more people than ever before.



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

"The Garioch Partnership and SensationALL have long enjoyed a strong and supportive relationship! TGP have consistently provided funding for us over several years, allowing us to expand and develop our services to be 'needs led' at all times. Dawn Brown has been a regular source of advice and support for both our staff and the board, including facilitating a strategic development event and providing regular signposting to networking opportunities. This included involving SensationALL within the Community Economic Development visit in 2019, which allowed us to be part of a crucial discussion with key council officials and other social enterprises and 3rd sector organisations around creating a resilient community. TGP are always on hand to offer support and advice where needed and have been a key driver in assisting us to shape our organisation and connect with the local community. We are very grateful for their input and look forward to continue working together in the future!"



**over
a third**

of referrals are
from NHS, social
work or education
professionals

Additional Media

