

## Staff

### Senior HD Specialist

Linda Lucas  
Email: [linda.lucas@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:linda.lucas@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)  
Mob: 07985 252004

### HD Specialist

Rhona Vernon Smith  
Email: [rhonavernon.smith@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:rhonavernon.smith@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)  
Mob: 07714 245740

### Admin / Resource Worker

Jackie Webster  
Email: [jackie.webster@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:jackie.webster@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)  
Office: 01355 597455

### Senior Specialist Youth Advisor

Kirsten Walker  
Email: [kirsten.walker@hdscotland.org](mailto:kirsten.walker@hdscotland.org)  
Mob: 07983 724201

### Specialist Youth Advisor

Grant Walker  
Email: [grant.walker@hdscotland.org](mailto:grant.walker@hdscotland.org)  
Mob: 07903 840524

### Financial Wellbeing Officer

Melissa Higgins  
Email: [melisa.higgins@hdscotland.org](mailto:melisa.higgins@hdscotland.org)  
Mob: 07710 391621

### Office

Scottish Huntington's Association  
Hunter Community Health Centre  
4th Floor  
Andrew Street  
East Kilbride  
G74 1AD

## Contact

If you wish further information about  
the Service please contact  
Scottish Huntington's Association  
Lanarkshire Office- 01355 597455

Further information is also available from  
our website [www.hdscotland.org](http://www.hdscotland.org)

National Office  
Scottish Huntington's Association  
Business First  
Linwood Point  
PAISLEY  
PA1 2FB  
Phone: 0141 848 0308  
Email: [sha-admin@hdscotland.org](mailto:sha-admin@hdscotland.org)

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Scottish Charity – No. SC010985



scottish  
huntington's  
association



Part of the HDA  
Family Worldwide

Lanarkshire  
Service

Empowering ordinary people to  
meet extraordinary challenges

## ***What is Huntington's Disease?***

- A genetic, hereditary, neurological, disorder of the central nervous system
- It is an autosomal dominant gene so if you have the faulty gene you will develop the illness at some point in your life
- It affects males and females equally
- Every child born to a parent with the faulty gene has a 50% chance of inheriting the gene
- Average age of onset of the illness is between 30-50 but this can vary widely
- It causes physical, emotional and cognitive impairment in varying degrees for each individual
- There is no known cure for this illness

## ***Who are Scottish Huntington's Association?***

- A registered charity
- Community based Huntington's Disease service provision since 1989
- Has community based services throughout Scotland
- Promotes needs led services and has a user led focus
- Commissioned by NHS Lanarkshire and local authorities

## **What service do we offer?**

The Lanarkshire, Service has two HD Specialists and aims to significantly improve the quality of lives of those living with Huntington's Disease (HD) and their families through timely specialist assessment, condition management, information, advice, advocacy and emotional support. The Lanarkshire Service also provides practical help for those with HD, carers and family members with benefit maximisation, adaptations, equipment, and access to services. The service works cohesively with the multi disciplinary teams in Health and Social Care across the whole of Lanarkshire that support our families by providing specialist information, educational sessions, and case management support.

### ***HD Management Clinic***

Facilitated every 2nd Tuesday at  
Central Clinic  
Orchard Street  
Hamilton  
Lanarkshire  
ML3 6PB

### **Youth Service**

The Specialist Youth Advisors, Kirsten Walker and Grant Walker work with children and young people aged 8-25, living in families with HD, and provides one-to-one support, group work, advocacy and befriending. This service ensures accurate age appropriate information is given. The one-to-one support is essential to manage the daily challenges of living in a family with HD.

## ***Financial Wellbeing***

The Financial Wellbeing Officer, Melissa Higgins, provides specialist welfare rights advice including benefit checks, assistance with applications, disputes and appeals, money (debt) advice, and financial guidance on money matters such as planning for the future, power of attorney, pensions and life insurance. As well as responding to specific enquires, the aim is that all the clients of SHA will be offered a 'Financial Health Check'.

### ***Where do we see people?***

Wherever the person is most comfortable, either at the individual's home, or at another suitable venue.

### ***Who can refer to this Service?***

The service has an open referral system. Direct referrals can be made from those affected, a family member or other third party referrals with consent. Please get in touch by phoning, writing or emailing the Lanarkshire Team.

### ***Carer Support Group***

This group was formed by family members to provide an opportunity to meet informally with others whose lives are affected by Huntington's Disease. Meetings are held monthly.

### ***Contact - Branch / Support group officer***

Isobel Darroch  
Tel: 0141 848 0308