# Staff

# Senior HD Specialist

Liz Fraser

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# Admin / Resource Worker

**Mary Cho** 

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# **Specialist Youth Advisor**

**David Drain** 

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# Financial Wellbeing Officer

Katrina Lovie

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Mobile: 07496 865342

## Office

Scottish Huntington's Association Grampian Service Clinical Genetics Centre Ground Floor, Ashgrove House Foresterhill Aberdeen AB25 2ZA

## **Contact**

If you wish further information about the Service please contact Scottish Huntington's Association

**Grampian Office- 01224 553530** 

Further information is also available from our website www.hdscotland.org



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Grampian 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 Aberdeen City, Aberdeen local authorities and by Big Lotery Fund

### What service do we offer?

The Grampian Service has one HD Specialist 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 Grampian 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 Grampian that support our families by providing specialist information, educational sessions, and case management support.

#### Clinics

#### **Enroll-HD Research Clinic:**

Grampian is an active site for this worldwide observational study open to HD families; it will monitor how the disease appears and changes over time in different people. The database will eventually include more than 20,000 participants and is designed to accelerate the discovery and development of new therapeutics for HD.

# **HD Management Clinic**

Facilitated by our HD Specialist Research Nurse every Monday pm at Clinical Genetic Centre Ashgrove house Foresterhill Aberdeen AB25 2ZA Tel: 01224 552720

For further information: www.enroll-hd.org

#### **Youth Service**

The Specialist Youth Advisor, David Drain, works 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, Katrina Lovie, 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 the Grampian 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 Grampian Team.

## Family Care and Symptomatic 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 every 3 months.

# Contact - Branch / Support Group Officer

Isobel Darroch Tel: 0141 848 0308