

News bulletin : 02-10

Welcome to February's bulletin

Do you have an item of news or an event that you would like to share with others? Let us know and we will do our best to include your information in the next edition. If you have been forwarded this bulletin then why not complete our [online membership form](#) and receive it direct to your inbox.

Network News

A North Training Network?

Would you or your organisation be interested in being involved in a multi-agency training network across the north of Scotland?

We are keen to gather views from individuals, local authorities, private bodies and voluntary organisations on whether you think the idea might be of value and if so, what you think the benefits might be for you and/or your organisation.

We would welcome your views on the proposed development, please let us know what you think by taking part in a short on line survey on the subject:-

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KFFPYZR>

The survey will be active until the 28th February; we very much look forward to hearing from you!

If there is sufficient interest in this, it would be our intention to host a series of initial meetings across the region in March.

Here are some observations from a trainer's perspective about what such a development could mean for the area:-

- ◆ "Training courses can be time consuming and expensive to prepare. Often we are probably reinventing the wheel and repeating work already being done by colleagues elsewhere in Scotland. Such a network might enable us to share courses or exchange ideas on what works, we could even swap training courses or materials".
- ◆ "We all have individuals who work within our agencies who may have particular skills or expertise in specific areas, we could develop a database of experts and trainers who specialise in such areas".
- ◆ "Training can be expensive and buying in trainers, sending people down south for training and backfilling posts all add to the costs. Whatever we can do to exchange ideas, save money in already stretched budgets and develop relationships with other local agencies is a positive".

SVQ Assessors & Verifiers Local Area Network (SVQ LAN)

24th February 2010

The next meeting of the SVQ LAN is in Aberdeen from 11am to 2pm on Wednesday, 24th February at Aberdeen College Gordon Centre, Bridge of Don.

Visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=430> to download the programme.

For catering purposes please advise Jan at e. learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk (or t. 01888 569200) if you will be attending.

North Leadership Community - Inverness

25th March 2010

Following the launch event last September, the various local Action Learning Sets that are up and running and the "Risky Business" workshop in November looking at Older Peoples' Services, the Leadership Community in Inverness now wants to look at what intelligent risks could or should be taken with Children's Services.

This event has been developed so that the participants will generate a number of project ideas which will be circulated to the rest of the Leadership Community across Scotland and also the key stakeholders.

Places are limited – we are looking for people to come that have a real interest and passion in this area and will be extremely active participants – that's what our services and service users deserve.

Visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=445> to download the draft programme and if you wish to be a participant or if you have any comments or queries contact Linda Anne Smith t. 07921 216562 or e. linda@smithsquared.co.uk

Learning Network Tayforth

Workforce Planning, Data and the Administration Role

25th February 2010, Perth

During the Tayforth Workforce Planning Project 2008/09, it became apparent that many organisations recognised the critical role that administration processes have in contributing to effective workforce planning. This was an area identified for further development and consequently Learning Network Tayforth has organised a one day Administrators Workshop to encourage further exploration of this topic.

For further information and to register for this free event download the [event flyer](#).

General News

Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre for Scotland

Annual Youth Justice Conference – 16th & 17th June, Dundee

A national two day workshop based conference for those working in the field of Youth Justice. This is an important practitioner led conference which is supported by the Scottish Government.

Local Authority staff nominations should be directed through your Youth Justice Co-ordinator; Voluntary Sector and other agencies contact e. ndt@ed.ac.uk

For further information visit <http://www.cjsw.ac.uk> or download the event flyer click [here](#)

Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit Information Literacy Event - 16th March, Aberdeen

This event will introduce you to 'Information Literacy', a set of skills to help you find and share information relevant to your work. Ian Watson from the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) will talk not only about 'Google', which most people will know something about, but also about how you can access other information that can enhance your learning and improve your practice.

In particular, the event will look at **Social Services Knowledge Scotland** and the **Learning Network North Portal** which are online information portals. Being able to use these tools will be a useful skill for lifelong learning, and can be a good way to contribute to your Post Registration Training and Learning requirements (PRTL).

Visit <http://www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/> to view the full programme for the day and book online.

Housing Support Enabling Unit (HSEU) First Steps in Marketing - a practical approach to raising the profile of Housing Support 9th March, Edinburgh

It is increasingly important to develop and maintain a positive profile of services in order to attract and sustain funding. Whether local authorities or individual service users with their own budgets are your funding source - and possibly it is a mix of both - it is necessary to review and try out different ways to get your message across.

The Housing Support Enabling Unit will cover this subject at their one day course on Tuesday 9th March 2010 in Edinburgh.

For further information and a booking form visit <http://www.ccpscotland.org/hseu/training/events/>

Children in Scotland Breaking-down Stereotypes and Engaging Fathers in Services for Children and Families 9th March, Aberdeen

Fathers and male carers whatever their situations are, are important to the development, well-being and life chances of children. Public bodies across Scotland have a legal responsibility to actively promote gender equality. Engaging positively with fathers and men as carers is an important aspect of this duty for all types of child and family service. The event will look at approaches used across a wide range of services, including early years, education, health and parent support.

For further information and book online visit:

http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/tra_tshow.php?ref=1387

CVS Training Initiative An Introduction to Social Accounting - 14th April Laurencekirk

This one day course will explain the process of social accounting which allows an organisation to measure how well it is doing in relation to its social, economic and environmental performance (the triple-bottom line). At the end of the session participants will:

- ◆ Understand the principles and values behind social accounting
- ◆ Understand the stages of social accounting.
- ◆ Be able to identify whether or not social accounting is suitable for their organisation.
- ◆ Have identified the range of performance and impact information they currently keep and where the gaps are.

For further information or to book a place contact: Diane / Shirley at e. admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk or t. 01358 722205

Perth College UHI PDA Practice Learning (SS) level 10

Perth College UHI will be running the PDA Practice Learning (SS) level 10 course from August 2010. The award is a qualification for those working within the field of social services and other related occupations.

UHI has designed the course in partnership to run flexibly over the course of one academic year using a mixture of on-line teaching and face to face tutorials. The use of a blended learning approach is designed to flexibly meet student expectations. The course covers all aspects of the candidates' (work to support a student in placement) work with a student in placement. The award is comprised of eight SQA units which are based upon The Practice Learning Qualifications Standards developed by the Scottish Institute for Excellence in Social Work Education (SIESWE) in line with *Confidence in Practice Learning* (Scottish Executive 2004) for SSSC.

When you have achieved this award, you will have demonstrated your competence across a wide range of learning situations and will be equipped to support practice based learning of students. Assessment is through assignments and (Direct Observations) that evidence your ability to support learning through a competent use of skill and knowledge base. This should be achieved from your ongoing practice with learners. The assessment strategy is flexible in design to enable you to gather the evidence required to achieve each learning outcome.

The course is also suitable for Managers involved in extensive staff supervision or staff training.

For further information please contact Eleanor Brown, Curriculum Manager, Eleanor.Brown@perth.uhi.ac.uk or Ann Fenner, Tutor PDA Practice Learning ann.fenner@perth.uhi.ac.uk

Scottish Government

Consultation: A Strategy for Self Directed Support

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the wider roll out of Self Directed Support in particular the use of Direct Payments, the most enabling form of Self Directed Support. The national strategy for self-directed support in Scotland has been developed to help take forward the personalisation of health and social care services in Scotland.

The closing date for the consultation is 7th May 2010. For further information and to access the online questionnaire visit: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/05133942/0>.

Alternatively contact Heather Stevens on t. 0131 244 4778 or e. Heather.stevens@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation: Social Care Procurement Scotland: Guidance - Consultation Draft

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to seek comments on draft guidance on social care procurement which has been prepared by the Joint Improvement Team and Scottish Procurement Directorate in consultation with a national Reference Group of key stakeholders. The national group involves all of the main interests in social care procurement, with representatives from service user and carer organisations, local authorities, service providers and regulatory bodies. This guidance provides a framework for social care procurement in Scotland.

It defines a set of key principles which must be applied to procurement activity in social care, encompassing care and support for children and families, for adults and older people, and criminal justice services.

The closing date for the consultation is 5th April 2010. For further information and to access the online questionnaire visit: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/13125045/0>

Alternatively contact Alex Bell on t. 0131 244 5424 or e. socialcareprocurement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Grampian Gender Based Abuse Training Consortium (GGBATC)

Violence Against Women: Domestic Abuse - Level 1: Basic Awareness

These multi agency training sessions, developed through the GGBATC will increase the participants' awareness and understanding of what Domestic Abuse is - the scope of the issue and who is affected.

The sessions are aimed at: Social Workers, Health Professionals, Substance Misuse Staff, Clergy, Community Education Workers, Youth Workers, Mental Health Practitioners, Voluntary Sector Workers, Police & Criminal Justice Workers, Teachers and any frontline worker who comes into contact with people who may be living in families where Domestic Abuse is an issue.

For further information and to download the 2010 Training Calendar click [here](#) or contact t. 01224 556969 or e. nhsg.grampiandevelopment@nhs.net

Scottish Requirements for Social Work Training and the Standards in Social Work Education : Call for Evidence

Respect Training and Consultancy, an organisation run and controlled by disabled people, has been asked by the Scottish Social Services Council to carry out an impact assessment of the Scottish Requirements for Social Work Training and the Standards in Social Work Education (SiSWE) in order to establish genuine competence standards, and provide proposals for the revision of the document.

There are two main drivers for this work. The Disability Rights Commission's (DRC) report of the formal investigation into fitness standards in housing, teaching, and social work recommended that "All regulatory bodies, across England, Scotland and Wales, should review their competence standards to ensure that any negative impact on disabled people is eliminated. They should provide guidance on reasonable adjustments and consider what other guidance to provide to encourage others (such as higher education institutions) to adopt an enabling approach to disabled people". Competence standards apply to all aspects of course delivery including entry requirements, assessment, and practice learning. Disabled people should not be discriminated against by the application of a competence standard.

Additionally, the Disability Equality Duty, introduced as part of the Disability Discrimination Act, requires public bodies such as the SSSC and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment of disabled people and promote disability equality.

The project will also involve a review of data in this area and a consultation with stakeholders. A number of **Focus Groups** will be held in February (**Aberdeen 26th February**) to review the SiSWE and the entry, teaching, learning and assessment requirements from a disability equality perspective. It is hoped that participation will include social work students, academics, HEI disability officers, practice teachers, trade union and employer representatives, disabled people, people who use services, carers, and representatives from disabled peoples' organisations.

If you or other members of your organisation are unable to attend a focus group, Respect would be happy to receive a response from you by email. Responses will be treated in the strictest confidence and your name and other identifying details will not appear in the final report.

Respect would be particularly interested to hear your views on:

- ◆ Any previous consultations on the requirements and standards that you or your organisation may have responded to or participated in
- ◆ Your direct experience of the requirements and standards e.g. as a social work student or a member of staff in an HEI.
- ◆ Whether you believe some of the standards and requirements may be potentially discriminatory and if so how they could be rewritten
- ◆ Anything else that you believe is relevant to this project.

The framework document can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/01/16202/17015>

The closing date for responses to the Call for Evidence is March 1st 2010. For further details or to book a place or to send your response to the Call for Evidence contact e. sasha@respect.org

Reminders

Service User and Carer groups in the North of Scotland

Learning Network North works with service users, carers, and their representative groups across the North of Scotland to support learning, networking, and communities. We want to build on this work by building up a better picture of the groups that exist in the north so that we can engage with you better and find out what it is you want from Learning Network North.

We therefore invite representatives from service user and carer groups to click on the link below to complete a short questionnaire about your organisation and its needs. The survey will run until March 1st.

<http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php>

Inn Bulletin

We are currently reviewing the monthly news bulletin to ensure the content and format remain appropriate (Inn Business Plan 2008-2011). With this in mind we would appreciate any feedback or comments you may have on the current style and content.

You can access our online [feedback form here](#) or email learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

LNN Executive Group

The LNN Executive Group has recently agreed new Terms of Reference for the governance of the Network. Under this new framework we have the opportunity to expand the membership of the Executive Group. Some people have already expressed an interest in this role, however should this be something of interest to you and you are from (based in) the Network area, please get in touch with either Sandy Riddell, Chair of the Executive Group at sandy.riddell@moray.gov.uk or Yvonne Leathley, Development Manager at Yvonne.leathley@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Care Accolades 2010

The closing date for applications to the Care Accolades 2010 is 26th February. Organisations and teams from the voluntary, private or local authority sector can all apply for the Care Accolades.

Visit www.sssc.uk.com/sssc/news-and-events/care-accolades.html for more information



If you have an event to publicise or an item of news you'd like to share with colleagues in the sector please contact us, the closing date for inclusion in March's issue is Friday 12th March 2010

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