

## Welcome to May'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

### Launch of Leadership Business Plan

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Scottish Social Services Learning Network launched the Changing Lives: Leadership business plan 2010-2011 setting out a new strategic approach to developing effective leadership for social services. The Changing Lives: strategic statement 2010-2011 is available at: [www.sssc.uk.com](http://www.sssc.uk.com)

### Workforce Planning, Data & the Administration Role

#### Administrator's Workshop

Many organisations recognise the critical role that administration processes play in contributing to effective workforce planning and this workshop attracted both administration workers and managers who have responsibility for workforce planning processes.

The workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup> April explored opportunities to:

- ◆ share examples of good practice
- ◆ explore the administration role and competencies required for effective performance
- ◆ identify administration workers' learning needs and the options available to meet them

The initial feedback from the delegates and facilitators looks really positive and we are currently considering how to resource the various requests e.g. for an Administrators Network, the support for such a network and what it might be used for.....watch this space!

### North Training Network : The Way Ahead

Over the past few weeks, we have been gathering views from individuals and organisations on the possibility of establishing a Training Network in the north of Scotland. Feedback from the three events held in Aberdeen, Inverness and Elgin confirm real enthusiasm for this; we are currently looking at resourcing for the various issues raised and a Summary Report will be published shortly. If you didn't manage to attend one of the events and haven't already indicated your interest in this initiative send your details through to [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Introduction to Online Communication - FREE online course

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Developed by the Learning Network North in partnership with the Robert Gordon University this popular course will introduce participants to how the online environment can provide effective learning opportunities, give access to knowledge resources and support enhanced communication.

For further information and/or to enrol on-line visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=650>

## Growing Up in Scotland Study: New Reports

Four new reports using data from the first four years of the **Growing Up in Scotland** study (GUS) were published on 29th April 2010. 'Growing Up in Scotland' is a study commissioned by the Scottish Government that follows the lives of a national sample of Scotland's children from infancy through to their teens. It will provide information to help develop policies affecting children and their families in Scotland.

Visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=604> to access the reports.

## Learning Network Website

Have you visited the **Links** section yet? It's at [www.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=258](http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=258).

From A to Z you can find just about anything here from ADSW to Working Together Care. If you know of a relevant organisation or a useful link that's not listed then please get in touch with your **regional network**.

Why not check out the Events pages. In this section you will find:

- ◆ a calendar of Learning Network North events
- ◆ events feeds displaying upcoming events from other learning and development organisations.

You can refer to the **National Events** calendar to access events from the other Learning Networks.

## SVQ Assessors & Verifiers Local Area Network 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 - Huntly

The next meeting is in Huntly on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and will look at:

- ◆ demonstrations of paperless SVQ systems by CSTAC (Aberlour), HiMATS and VSA
- ◆ how ecommunities can be developed

If you would like to come along register online at: <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=498>

## Alzheimer Scotland: Dementia Awareness Week Conference

### Scotland's Dementia Strategy : Making it Work for People - LNN funded place offer 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - Glasgow

The conference will focus on the Scottish Government's National Dementia Strategy.

Learning Network North still has a **free place available** (normal delegate cost £85), if you would like to take up this offer contact Jan at [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or t. 01888 569200

For more information about the conference visit:

[www.alzscot.org/pages/info/dementia-awareness-week-conference.htm](http://www.alzscot.org/pages/info/dementia-awareness-week-conference.htm)

## Local Practitioner Forum – Aberdeen City

### 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – H506, School of Applied Social Studies, Robert Gordon University

The Aberdeen City Local Practitioner Forum to be held on Thursday 24th June 2010 has been organised in partnership with Learning Network North and RGU. Local Practitioner Forums were recommended in Changing Lives to actively involve front line social work professionals in implementing change.

There is a varied agenda for the day including covering the theme of substance misuse.

This event is open to anyone working in the sector in Aberdeen City regardless of who you work for.

A finalised programme will be posted no later than a week prior to the event. Interested? For further information / details of how to book contact [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

## General News

### Aberdeen City Council 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Practice Learning Event 2010 'What's the Difference?'

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 9:15am- 3:45pm, Robert Gordon University

The event is open to all staff with an interest in Practice Learning:

- ◆ Practice Teachers,
- ◆ 40 Day Practice Teachers
- ◆ Link Supervisors - Past, Present, Future

For more information and details of how to book visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=601>

Download the event flyer / programme [here](#)

### Scottish Social Services Council Care Accolades

Now in its seventh year, the Care Accolades, organised by the SSSC in partnership with the Scottish Government showcases the excellent work happening in social services across Scotland. The finalists will find out who has won at the award ceremony- being presented this year by Radio Scotland host Kaye Adams - on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at the Macdonald Highland Resort, Aviemore.

Among the finalists are: Highland Home Carers in the category 'Investing in the workforce' and Aberdeen Social Enterprises from Turning Point Scotland in the category 'Team of the year in Scotland'. To check out the full list of finalists visit [www.sssc.uk.com](http://www.sssc.uk.com)

### ARC Scotland – Training & Development Conference 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Edinburgh

...it *is* what you do and the way that you do it !

A must for anyone involved in the training, learning and development of workers in social care – particularly trainers, assessors and managers.

For further information and online booking visit [www.arcuk.org.uk/scotland](http://www.arcuk.org.uk/scotland) or download the event flyer [here](#).

### Continuous Learning Framework Gathering Group Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 12:30 - 14:30 north region venue tbc

The **Continuous Learning Framework** (CLF) sets out what people working in social services need to be able to do their jobs well now and in the future and what their employer needs to do to support them.

The CLF was published in December 2008 and was developed by the **Scottish Social Services Council** (SSSC) in partnership with the **Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services** (IRISS) as one of the recommendations made by 'Changing Lives: the Report of the 21st Century Social Work Review'.

In partnership with the **Learning Network North**, a **CLF Gathering Group** will be held in the North region, at a venue to be confirmed. This support group will provide the opportunity for people to come together and share ideas and knowledge relating to the CLF.

The CLF website [www.continuouslearningframework.com](http://www.continuouslearningframework.com) features information and case studies about how people have been engaging with the CLF, tools and resources and links to help and support. Check the **CLF Gathering Groups** section, for more information on Gathering Groups.

If you are interested in attending the North CLF Gathering Group, please contact the CLF team at e: [CLF.enquiries@sssc.uk.com](mailto:CLF.enquiries@sssc.uk.com) or t. 0845 60 30 891.

## **Charter for Change – National Conference**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Edinburgh**

The Scottish Government suggests that about 20% of people with learning disabilities live and are cared for at home by family members over the age of 65. Little has been done to plan and prepare for when the older family carers are no longer able to care for their relative. This conference coordinated in partnership by Quarriers, EDG, Enable Scotland and Learning Disability Scotland brings together 3 elements to break this pattern of inaction.

- ◆ Carers Action Groups making change in their local areas
- ◆ Organisations creating dynamic projects to deliver the care and support needed by older families.
- ◆ Commitment from local and national government to making a real change in people's lives.

The Conference will launch the **Charter for Change**, to start making a difference to older families in every part of Scotland.

To find out more about the Charter and get details of how to book a place at the conference visit:

[www.charterforchange.com/](http://www.charterforchange.com/)

## **Carers UK – 5<sup>th</sup> International Carers Conference**

**9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July, Leeds - new frontiers in caring : 2010 and beyond**

HRH The Princess Royal will deliver the opening address on Friday 9th July 2010 at the **5th International Carers Conference**. Delegates will also hear from key speakers including:

- ◆ Eric Dishman, Intel Fellow & Director of Health Innovation and Policy, Intel's Digital Health Group, USA
- ◆ Dame Carol Black DBE, National Director for Health and Work, UK
- ◆ David Behan CBE, Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health, UK
- ◆ Denis Gilhooly, Executive Director, Digital Health Initiative and Principal Adviser, United Nations Office for Partnership, USA

The four main themes of the conference are:

- ◆ Health, Social Care and Well-being Services
- ◆ Caring and Employment
- ◆ Funding, Financial and Legal Support
- ◆ Technology, Design and the Built Environment

Visit <http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh259/agenda.php> to view the conference agenda and speaker line-up online.

## **Housing Support Enabling Unit**

**First Steps in Marketing – seminar 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, 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 funders – and possibly it is a mix of both – it is necessary to review and try out different ways to get your message across.

Further information and a booking form can be found on the housing support enabling unit website at [www.ccpscotland.org/hseu](http://www.ccpscotland.org/hseu)

## **Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 7pm to 9pm, Elgin**

A professional networking event looking at 'Tackling substance Misuse in Moray'

For further information visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=651>

## Scottish Government

### Reminder - Consultation on Proposals for New Self-Directed Support Legislation 31/03/2010 to 23/06/2010

Consultation on proposed new legislation around Self Directed Support. The consultation will seek views on updating and extending existing legislation on direct payments for community care services.

For further information visit <http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/23102019/0> or e. [kenneth.pentland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kenneth.pentland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or t. 0131 244 5455

### Underage Sexual Activity: Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns 26/04/10 – 23/07/10

Consultation on draft guidance for agencies and professionals on the appropriate disclosure of information in cases where there are concerns about a child or young person.

For further information visit <http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/04/23154747/0> or contact Laura Holton at e [laura.holton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:laura.holton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or t. 0131 244 7583

### Forthcoming Consultation on revised national guidance on child protection - Spring 2010

The Scottish Government is consulting on revised guidance on child protection, to replace the 1998 guidance Protecting Children - A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Inter-Agency Co-operation.

For further information contact Laura Holton at e. [laura.holton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:laura.holton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or t. 01312447583

## University of Stirling CPD: Graduate Certificate in Child Welfare and Protection

Applications are now being invited for the autumn intakes of the Certificate beginning:

West of Scotland (Glasgow intake) – 11/10/10

Central (Stirling intake) – 18/10/10

**North East (Aberdeen intake) – 25/10/10**

South East (Edinburgh intake) – 01/11/10

Places are limited and early application is advised. For further details and application forms contact Graeme Hampton at e. [graeme.hampton@stir.ac.uk](mailto:graeme.hampton@stir.ac.uk) or t. 01786 466 303

## University of Strathclyde - MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Social Work Management

Applications are invited for the above course (September 2010). This post graduate programme offers busy social work managers a flexible, challenging and professionally relevant course. The programme is recognised by the Scottish Social Services Council as a relevant manager's award for the purposes of registration. Entry qualifications are first degree or professional qualifications and/or experience deemed equivalent. For further details contact Pamela McDaid at e. [p.mcdaid@strath.ac.uk](mailto:p.mcdaid@strath.ac.uk), or t. 0141 950 3581 Visit <http://www.strath.ac.uk/gssw/gsswcourses/mscinsocialworkmanagement/> for additional course info.

## VSSSWU

In 2009, the Workforce Unit assisted 6 small and medium sized organisations to undertake an "audit" against the organisational capabilities identified in the [Continuous Learning Framework](#). The audit focused particularly on "planning for learning, development and improved practice" The self assessment audit tool used is now available to the wider sector and may help your organisation identify a baseline for how it is performing in relation to "planning for learning, development and improved practice."

Visit [sharing practice section](#) of the workforce Unit's website for step-by-step instructions on how to use the tool or contact the [VSSSWU](#) for further information.

## Reminders

### SIRCC National Conference

Building on Success - Reflections and Visions - 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Aviemore

This conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the residential child care sector, building on a vision for the future to address some of the current challenges. For more information and booking details visit [www.sircc.org.uk/node/1171](http://www.sircc.org.uk/node/1171)

### Children in Scotland

A Sense of Place - Environments, community & services for young people 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Inverness

A Children in Europe special conference supported by Highland Council. For more information visit [www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/tra\\_tshow.php?ref=1401](http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/tra_tshow.php?ref=1401)

### Equal, Connected, Contributing

Research perspectives on the citizenship and human rights of people with learning disabilities - 10th June 2010, Perth

A one day research conference to reflect upon the contributions and participation of people with learning disabilities within our society. For more information, please visit: <http://sclid.iriss.org.uk/news-events/events/2010/equal-connected-and-contributing>

### NHS Grampian

The Generation Game - Off Line to On Line Conference - 9th & 10th September 2010, Aberdeen

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> Substance Misuse Symposium on multi-agency working with Substance Misuse Services. For further information contact Nicola Shand at e. [n.shand@nhs.net](mailto:n.shand@nhs.net) or t. 01224 557610

### North East of Scotland Child Protection Committee

Child Neglect – Challenges and Dilemmas - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010, Aberdeen

This conference will explore the values attitudes and the service provision needed to minimize the risk of harm and abuse to children and young people living in families with neglect issues. For further information contact the NESPCPC office at e. [info@nescpc.org.uk](mailto:info@nescpc.org.uk) or t. 01224 814646

### Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC)

“Coming of Age” - 19th to 21st October 2010, London

The 4<sup>th</sup> and biggest international conference ever staged by the DSDC will focus on the National Dementia Strategy, the event will also welcome more than 600 delegates, speakers and exhibitors all coming together to help celebrate the DSDC's 21st birthday. To find out more about the conference, submit an abstract or to register your interest visit: <http://dementia.stir.ac.uk/London2010>



The closing date for inclusion in May's issue is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

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