

## Welcome to your e-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. The closing date for inclusion in May's issue is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## Network News

### Dates for your diaries:

#### SVQ Assessors & Verifiers Local Area Network

17<sup>th</sup> June Aberdeen 10am to 1pm (VSA offices, Castle Street) Book your place [here](#)

Forward your agenda items / suggestions to [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### Administrators Local Area Network

26<sup>th</sup> May Aberdeen 10.30am to 12.30pm : Book your place [here](#)

7<sup>th</sup> June Inverness 10.30am to 12.30pm : Book your place [here](#)

15<sup>th</sup> June Elgin 11am to 1pm : Book your place [here](#)

Can you provide a venue? Contact Jan on [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### Training Local Area Network

21<sup>st</sup> June Inverness 11am to 1pm : Book your place [here](#)

28<sup>th</sup> June Elgin 11am to 1pm : Book your place [here](#)

30<sup>th</sup> June Aberdeen 1.30pm to 3.30pm (Cttee Room 5, Members' Building, Woodhill House) : Book your place [here](#)

Can you provide a venue for Inverness or Elgin?  
Contact Jan on [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### CLF Gathering Group

23<sup>rd</sup> June Elgin For more information and details of how to book contact [Shirley.Gibson@sssc.uk.com](mailto:Shirley.Gibson@sssc.uk.com)

## Leadership Breakfast Series

We still have places available at the final Leadership Breakfast event in Inverness, if you haven't already advised that you can attend and would like to come along, please use the link below to book or email [learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Inverness : 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011, 8am to 9.30am, Waterside Hotel

The meeting will be looking at the topic of Partnership Working.

## General News

### Robert Gordon University

#### Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Officer Award

The next PG Cert Mental Health Officer (MHO) Award will be offered in the North of Scotland from September 2011. This year long course is delivered in partnership between the Robert Gordon University and local authorities in the North of Scotland.

Mental Health Officers have significant powers and duties under different pieces of legislation and operate within a complex environment. Applicants must therefore be experienced, competent and confident professionals.

#### Essential criteria

Applicants must:

- (a) be registered Social Workers with the Scottish Social Services Council
- (b) normally have two years post qualifying experience on commencement of the course. (Practice as an MHO is restricted to those with a minimum of two years experience)
- (c) have completed study for any other post-qualifying award they may have been engaged in prior to commencement of this course (e.g. Practice Learning Qualification) This is both to avoid additional pressure on the candidate and to support a necessary focus on the MHOA
- (d) submit an analysis of current or recent practice which demonstrates professional competence, empowering practice, the use of theoretical knowledge and the potential to write critically and analytically at the appropriate level
- (e) provide a reference from their line manager confirming their suitability for training and the agency's support of the candidate's application.

The course offers a stimulating learning experience to MHO candidates. It challenges candidates to:

- think critically about the complex legal and practice environment when working with people with mental disorders,
- practise safely and ethically,
- apply relevant legislation accurately while being guided by the principles of the legislation and service user/carer rights,
- practise professionally in a multi agency and multi disciplinary environment,
- develop skills in engaging sensitively and effectively with service users with mental disorders and their carers, often at times of crisis, and
- practise with the authority and autonomy required of the role

Further information on the course and application packs can be obtained from: Jackie Loxton, Course Leader on t. 01224 263203 or e. [j.loxton@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:j.loxton@rgu.ac.uk). Completed application forms should be submitted by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It is expected that interviews will be held early June 2011.

## NHS Health Scotland Mental Health Improvement

Mental Health Improvement e-bulletin for March now available to download at: [www.healthscotland.com](http://www.healthscotland.com)

## Voice against Violence

- ◆ Do you want to end domestic abuse in Scotland?
- ◆ Do you think young people's views matter?
- ◆ Do you work with or have contact with young people aged 11-26?

Voice Against Violence is a group of eight young experts who have first hand experience of domestic abuse and different services. VAV is working with the Scottish Government and CoSLA on a Delivery Plan which aims to eradicate domestic abuse from Scotland.

An online survey has been set up to find out what young people think about domestic violence and how it affects them, whether they've experienced domestic abuse or not.

The survey is available at <http://www.youngscotsayswho.org/consultation/Voice-Against-Violence/survey>

- ◆ Let them know that it's a chance for them to have their say
- ◆ Let them know it's anonymous
- ◆ Let them know it's up to them whether or not they fill it in

To find out more about Voice Against Violence visit [www.voiceagainstviolence.org.uk](http://www.voiceagainstviolence.org.uk)

## Recovery Scotland 2011

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Glasgow

Three years on since publication of the Scottish Government's *The Road to Recovery* drugs strategy, Recovery Scotland 2011 provides a timely overview of the current recovery landscape in Scotland today.

The conference will identify and explore best practice, key issues, and opportunities for innovation amid funding cuts, reconfiguration of services and an increasing awareness of the important role of service users in facilitating and sustaining the recovery journey.

Who should attend?

- Commissioners, directors of services, private residential & community-based service managers
- Frontline workers – social workers, project workers, health and social care staff, carers, trainers, public health workers, criminal justice, youth offending and probation service professionals, A&E and medical staff
- Those working within organisations focusing on homelessness, dual diagnosis, sex workers, vulnerable adults.
- Undergraduate and postgraduate students, people undertaking training and professional development, researchers and academic staff
- People who use services, their relatives, advocacy and service-user led organisations

For more information download the programme and booking form at [www.pavpub.com](http://www.pavpub.com) (pdf)

## Aberdeen City Alcohol & Drugs Partnership Stakeholder Event

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Help Shape the Future of Drug Services in Aberdeen. Open invitation to service providers, service users, stakeholders and the general public to discuss and promote views on the future shape of 3rd sector drug service provision in Aberdeen City in line with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) strategy. The workshop will be hosted and delivered by ACVO. For more information visit [www.acvo.org.uk](http://www.acvo.org.uk)

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## Scottish Social Networks

- Do you have an interest in homelessness, social inclusion, communities or mental health and wellbeing?
- Are you involved in mediation, mentoring or befriending? Download the latest e-bulletin at:  
[www.scottishsocialnetworks.org](http://www.scottishsocialnetworks.org)

## University of Glasgow - Children's Mental Health Conference Thursday 12th May 2011, Glasgow

The 7th Annual Children's Mental Health Conference plus half day workshop: Working with Children and Young People Experiencing Trauma and Distress.

5 great reasons to attend:-

- ◆ Benefit from the latest updates and current thinking
- ◆ Learn from leading experts
- ◆ Review best practice and policy
- ◆ Debate and discuss hot topics
- ◆ Take-away practical advice

For more information, visit [www.gla.ac.uk](http://www.gla.ac.uk)

## Grampian Child Bereavement Network - Launch

Aberdeen, 14th May 2011, 11am to 1pm

Grampian Child Bereavement Network is a small local charity that has been established to improve services to bereaved children and young people within Grampian.

The launch and networking event flyer along with a booking form are available to download at:

<http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1144>

## Looked After Children Strategic Implementation Group

- LACSIG Commissioning Hub Activity

- Children's Services Strategic Commissioning Workshops

An opportunity for all those with responsibility for improving outcomes for looked after children to participate in a series of workshops on strategic commissioning and help make a difference in shaping the way children's services are designed and delivered.

A number of regional workshops will be held across Scotland to engage as widely as possible with those currently involved in designing and delivering children's services. The workshops are relevant to everyone with responsibility for delivering services for 'looked after' children and young people. This includes key decision-makers such as elected members, senior council officers and resource managers as well as those involved in planning, commissioning and contracting personnel alongside service providers, colleagues in health services, children, young people and their families and/or their representatives.

- ◆ Discuss and debate what is meant by strategic commissioning.
- ◆ Explore the benefits of strategic commissioning.
- ◆ Explore the challenges and constraints experienced by local government and their stakeholders.
- ◆ Explore what can be done to overcome the challenges.

The workshops will take place across Scotland in May and June 2011 in the following locations:

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, Inverness**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, Glasgow

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, Edinburgh

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Aberdeen**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Stirling

For more information and / or a booking form contact [lacsig@strath.ac.uk](mailto:lacsig@strath.ac.uk)

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## **NHS Health Scotland - Maternal and Early Years**

[www.maternal-and-early-years.org.uk](http://www.maternal-and-early-years.org.uk) is aimed at everyone working in the early years workforce. It covers a wide range of information and settings within the early years topic and provides information that is relevant to practitioners at many levels. A key element of the site is to provide the best possible links to up-to-date information, resources and support.

## **Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)**

Visit [www.scra.gov.uk](http://www.scra.gov.uk) to download the SCRA's Corporate Plan 2011-2014. It outlines SCRA's commitment to working with partners in delivering the best outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, their families and carers, and the communities in which they live.

## **Early Education North Scotland Branch** (British Association for Early Childhood Education) **How adults can support young children's learning and interactions at home and at pre-school with Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford** **28<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Inverness**

For information and details of how to book visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1145>

## **SIRCC**

Download the latest e-bulletin at: [www.sircc.org.uk](http://www.sircc.org.uk)

## **Children in Scotland**

### **Advance Notice Annual Conference 2011 - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Edinburgh**

Children in Scotland's Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity for those who work with and for children, young people and their families to meet, network and debate key issues facing service providers today, put the date in your diary now! Register your interest now and receive the latest conference news and updates e. [hgoodrum@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:hgoodrum@childreninScotland.org.uk)

## **Training Programme Survey**

Children in Scotland are putting together their September-December 2011 training programme and are looking for your feedback. By filling in the quick survey at the link below you can help make their guide easily accessible and intuitive, allowing you to find the training that meets your needs. The survey is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9YLSQLY> and should take no more than five minutes.

## **CVS Training Initiative**

Download the CVS training programme for May / June 2011 [here](#).

## **SSSC**

Download the March bulletin at [www.sssc.uk.com](http://www.sssc.uk.com)

## **Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS)**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 the work of the Care Commission passed to the SCSWIS. SCSWIS is the new unified independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services and has a significant part to play in improving services for adults and children across Scotland. They will regulate and inspect care services and carry out social work and child protection inspections. Visit [www.scswis.com](http://www.scswis.com)

## **Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol (STRADA)**

For the latest STRADA news visit [www.projectstrada.org](http://www.projectstrada.org)

## **Carers Scotland - Carer's Assessment 'Right to Assessment – ability to care'**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011-10:00am to 3:30pm

**Aim:** This training has been designed for local authorities, the NHS and other support agencies to recognise and treat carers as key partners in providing care.

This training will support those staff that are conducting '**Carer's Assessments**' and will give:

- ◆ An insight into '**Ability to Care**' - in this context is not a reflection of the carer's competence or skills, but rather their capacity to care, with support as appropriate.
- ◆ Assessment Process – Many carers find the term 'assessment' off-putting and judgemental, and therefore it becomes a barrier to involvement in the process.
- ◆ Valuing Carers – Provide consistency about the way carers wish to be treated.
- ◆ Resourcing Carers – Carers require resources to fulfil their role – these can be information and advice, breaks from caring, carer training and financial advice.
- ◆ Purpose of Assessment – Identifying the care provided by the carer; establish what level of care the carer is willing and able to provide and help them to determine whether their caring role is sustainable; identify current and potential risks to their health; maintain and improve their own health; carer's views.
- ◆ Record of Assessment – the carer's role and the level and type of care provided

The training is designed to take place over one full day and is designed to be as participative as possible. Learning materials for participants will be provided as part of the session.

For more information visit [www.carersscotland.org](http://www.carersscotland.org) or contact: e. [rena.friel@carersscotland.org](mailto:rena.friel@carersscotland.org) or [anne.conlin@carersscotland.org](mailto:anne.conlin@carersscotland.org) or t.l 0141 445 3070

## **I.E. Satisfied with your service user involvement?**

I.E. is an innovative Scottish social enterprise founded by inspirational leaders in the field of service user involvement, they aim to continuously improve the quality, quantity, equality and authenticity of service user involvement. I.E. work across all sectors to assist busy professionals who plan, or provide, services for people experiencing exclusion or inequality.

What can I.E. offer you? Progressive training, capacity building and an expert advisory and support service.

Courses being delivered **NOW across Scotland** include: strategic '**Mainstreaming Service User Involvement**' and practical '**Tools, Tips & Techniques for Involvement**'. For more information t. 0141 276 4825 or e. [ie@ghn.org.uk](mailto:ie@ghn.org.uk)

## **Scottish Government Consultations:**

### **Children and Families Common Core of Skills 2011**

The Scottish Government is seeking views on the common core of skills, knowledge and values for all those working with children, young people and families. For more information and to take part visit: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk) Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

### **Amendment to Rule 58 of the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland (Practice and Procedure) (No. 2) Rules 2005: Rule 58: Power to decide case without a hearing**

Consultation about proposed changes to Rule 58 of the The Mental Health Tribunal For Scotland For more information and to take part visit: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk) Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011.