

Network News

A personal message from the Chair of Learning Network North:

It's hard to believe that this is our final newsletter. The Network has been very successful in forging effective partnerships across the sector, initiating important developments and bringing a wide range of stakeholders together to support change and development. With all the challenges and change facing the sector, the reality is that Networks are needed more than ever. The decision by Government to cut their funding is, in my opinion, both disappointing and short sighted.

I want to thank all of you for your support and your active involvement over the years. I am grateful to all members of the Executive Group for individually and collectively providing the leadership to both shape and deliver on what has been a very demanding agenda. I finally want to pay tribute to our staff, Yvonne and Jan. They have undertaken their duties brilliantly and have always been prepared to go the extra mile. Even during the lengthy period of uncertainty over funding, they remained committed and conscientious. I am in no doubt that the Network's success is due, in large part, to their dedication.

Again, many thanks to you all and the very best wishes for the future.



Sandy Riddell
Director of Education and Social Care, The Moray Council
Chair Scottish Social Services Learning Network North

and from our Development Manager

So this is it, our last newsletter. I would like to thank all of you for participating in the Network, without your engagement, contribution and support we would not have had as hectic a time over the last four years as we have!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the Learning Network North and especially working with Jan who has been, you all know, the greatest Administrator!!

Best wishes for the future to you all and let's hope that at least some of our paths cross again in the months and years to come

Yvonne

The Learning Network North office will close on Tuesday 14th June 2011

Urgent Network meetings May and June Urgent

As you all know the Learning Network North is winding down its activities. We had been told that funding would be available up to the end of June so that a final meeting of the various network groups could take place. Unfortunately this is not the case. We have not received sufficient funds from the Government to cover the costs of hosting and facilitating the meetings and as a consequence The Executive Group have agreed that **we have to cancel the following events.**

Administrators Local Area Network

26th May Aberdeen
7th June Inverness
15th June Elgin

Training Local Area Network

21st June Inverness
28th June Elgin
30th June Aberdeen

We are very disappointed at having to take this action and hope that you will be able to find a way to keep in touch in the future.

We are pleased however to say that Bert Lawrie from VSA has agreed to step in and Chair the next meeting of the **SVQ Assessors and Verifiers Local Area Network** to enable members to discuss the future of the group. The meeting will take place on Friday the 17th June commencing at 10am. The venue is VSA, Castle Street, Aberdeen.

It would be helpful if you could contact Bert and let him know if you are able to attend or not, if you cannot make the meeting please pass on any thoughts so that they can contribute to the discussion. Bert can be contacted by email at Bert.Lawrie@vsa.org.uk or by phone on 01224 212021.

General News

SSSC

Re-imagining workforce development and planning for social services

Social services in Scotland are facing major challenges which can only be met by having a confident, skilled and valued workforce and the time is right to take a fresh look at how we do things in Scotland.

Following the Scottish Government's recent decision not to continue to fund the Scottish Social Services Learning Networks, the SSSC now has a new set of outcomes to look at the future direction of social service workforce development and planning in Scotland.

The four Learning Networks have done a great job in raising awareness and creating capacity for workforce development in the sector. The sector is now in a strong place that we can build on for the future.

To make sure that you continue to stay up-to-date with what's happening in the sector and can get involved in new developments join the SSSC mailing list by emailing your name, organisation, job role and email address to: communications@sssc.uk.com or telephone 01382 207249.

There's also now a blog post on the SSSC's website where you'll be able to get the latest updates on the Re-imagining work, visit:

<http://www.sssc.uk.com/sssc/news/re-imagining-workforce-development-and-planning-blog.html>

Continuous Learning Framework CLF Gathering Group

The next Gathering will be on 23rd June on Elgin. For more information and details of how to book contact Shirley.Gibson@sssc.uk.com

PLQ2

Are you working in the Social Care Services?
Do you support the learning and development of others?
If so, then the Practice Learning Qualification (Stage 2) is the award for you.

Applications are invited for the second cohort of the PLQ2 due to commence in September 2011.

For more information & details of how to apply visit: <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1180>

The course is run by Highland & Moray Accredited Training Services (HiMATS) e. info@himats.org.uk or t. 01463 258831.

The Open University (OU)

“Look after staff development with specialist care training”

- ◆ face-to-face tutor support on many courses and there's a vibrant student community available 24/7
- ◆ expert learning is practice-based, meaning everything staff learn today can be applied tomorrow
- ◆ flexible learning fits around work – minimising staff downtime and disruption
- ◆ cost-effective range of development solutions – from short introductory courses to formal industry recognised qualifications

Minimise disruption and maximise your personal or staff's potential with the OU's social care and social work qualifications. For more information about the courses available visit www.open.ac.uk

Interested in becoming a Social Worker? Want to know how the OU can help?

The OU is running a series of events around Scotland and will be in **Inverness** at the Townhouse on Monday the 20th June from 4.30pm to 7pm.

The evening will be of interest to you if:

- ◆ you are in a social work or social care post but cannot get sponsorship at present
- ◆ you want to become a social worker but don't know where to start

For more information and details of how to book download the [flyer / booking form](#) (pdf)

Colleges in Scotland 2011 - Sustaining Success Thursday 16th June, Edinburgh

This conference will be the first key opportunity following the Holyrood elections for everyone working with the college sector to meet to find solutions to key issues including funding, public sector reform, sharing services and mapping provision.

Who should attend?

- ◆ College principals and vice-principals
- ◆ Board members and senior college staff
- ◆ Local authorities
- ◆ Policy makers and think tanks
- ◆ Skills and enterprise organisations
- ◆ Employers organisations and employers
- ◆ The Scottish Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies

For more information visit <http://colleges.holyrood.com/>

Scottish Conference on Inclusive Learning Disability Research

7th June 2011, Perth

The Scottish Learning Disability Research Network, in conjunction with The Open University, IRISS and The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, announce the date for its first conference. The conference will focus on past, present and new inclusive research in Scotland and beyond, reflecting upon the contributions and participation of people with learning disabilities as researchers and in setting research agendas.

Target audience:

- ◆ Researchers
- ◆ Practitioners
- ◆ Students
- ◆ People with learning disabilities
- ◆ Families and anyone with an interest in learning disability research

Places cost £85 however if you are a student the cost is reduced to £40. There are also a limited number of **free places for people with learning disability**. For more information visit www.sclld.org.uk or e. conference@sclld.co.uk

Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability

New dates for Learning Disability open training courses from the SCLD

- ◆ Personalisation and Outcome Focused Support Planning (for Care Workers)
Tuesday 14th June 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow
- ◆ Creating Information for Everyone!
Wednesday 15th June 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow
- ◆ Supporting the Transition to Personalisation and Outcome Focused Support Planning
Wednesday 15th - Thursday 16th June 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow
- ◆ Co-Production – what is it and how do we do it
Monday 20th – Tuesday 21st June 2011, 10.00am - 4.30pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow,
- ◆ Graphic facilitation
Wednesday 22nd June 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow
- ◆ Benefit Entitlement for Disabled Children and Young People - an introduction.
Monday 22nd August 2011, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Adelphi Centre, Glasgow

Check out the Course Calendar at www.sclld.org.uk/what-we-offer/training

Download SCLD's Spring newsletter at www.sclld.org.uk

Understanding the Concept of Learning Disability

1st June 2011 (0930 - 1600), Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen

Do you support adults with a Learning Disability? This is a one day training course run by NHS Grampian's Department of Clinical Psychology (Learning Disability Services) examining the criteria required for diagnosis of a learning disability and common associated thinking deficits. The thinking deficits examined during the day include: attention, perception, time-perception, short-term memory, expression, comprehension and coping with change.

To apply for a place contact: e. nhsg.grampiandevelopment@nhs.net or t. 01224 556969.

Scottish Mental Health Research Network (SMHRN)

The SMHRN was set up in 2007 and supports high quality research in mental health in Scotland. The network is managed by a co-ordinating centre in Edinburgh with a Scottish wide Management Group with Regional Leads in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen and is committed to improving patient and public involvement in mental health research.

For more information visit: www.smhrn.org.uk where you can register to receive their quarterly newsletter.

Mindroom- No Mind Left Behind - Social Brain 3

The fifth Mindroom international conference, No Mind Left Behind - Social Brain 3, took place on the 29th & 30th March in Glasgow.

It was Mindroom's second conference in collaboration with Professor Christopher Gillberg and the Swedish Child Neuropsychiatry Science Foundation (SCNSF) and focused on autism, ADHD and other early onset neurodevelopmental disorders. The conference continued the 'Social Brain' concept – that of two strands: Science and Reality – and featured 51 of the world's leading experts from the field of learning difficulties, autism and ADHD.

If you couldn't attend No Mind Left Behind in person, you can participate by using this link: www.mindroom.org where you can sign in as a Virtual Delegate and get access to the event anyway!

Breaking Down the Barriers

Aberdeen City Council – 6th Annual Practice Learning Event 2011

Friday 17th June 2011 (0915 -1430) - H230, Robert Gordon University, Garthdee

Explore the possibilities for inter-professional learning on placement. Open to all staff with an interest in Practice Learning:-

Practice Teachers : 40 Day Practice Teachers : Link Supervisors - Past, Present & Future

Download the event flyer at <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1169> To book your place contact e. SWTraining@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Stroke Association

Stroke Association has launched its **Agenda for Action for Stroke in Scotland** campaign to mobilise greater support to improve stroke prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, support and care.

The Agenda for Action for Stroke in Scotland calls for improvements in four key areas:

- ◆ increasing public awareness of stroke as this saves lives
- ◆ implementing more effective prevention measures so we have far fewer strokes
- ◆ providing speedy and good quality acute treatment and rehabilitation for all stroke patients to save lives and aid recovery, and
- ◆ providing stroke survivors and their carers with the ongoing care and support they need so they can maximise their quality of life after stroke.

Find out more and pledge your support for the Agenda for Action at www.stroke.org.uk

Getting it right for social work in substance misuse and recovery

22nd June 2011 (1030 - 1530) Edinburgh

ADSW in partnership with IRISS, will host this conference for practitioners to explore the role of social work in substance misuse and recovery. The event will draw on research commissioned from Donald Forrester and Sarah Galvani, University of Bedfordshire, by the ADSW, IRISS and the Scottish Government.

The research is based on efficacy of social work practice in substance misuse and will include:

- ◆ Presentation from Donald Forrester and Sarah Galvani
- ◆ Launch of the ADSW practitioner guidance on effective social work practice in substance misuse
- ◆ Presentation from Marjut Kosonen on CAPSM/GIRFEC – A Learning Partnership Approach
- ◆ Presentation from Emma Collins (IRISS) on Leading for Outcomes: Parental Substance Misuse
- ◆ Opportunity to get involved in facilitated discussion groups and to identify key implications for practice.

Places for practitioners are free and can be booked on the event website at <http://adswsubstanceuse.eventbrite.com/>.

Mentoring Scheme For Managers

We're looking for mentees working at management level or aspiring managers to take part in the next phase of the joint public sector mentoring scheme.

The scheme will bring you together with mentors from public sector organisations in the north east which will enable you to develop your skills further and share ideas.

To become a mentee you will be committed to your own development. You will either be aspiring to become more effective in your current role, or potentially be aiming for some new challenges. Either way you will be looking for someone to challenge and support you to achieve your goals. You should also be willing to work with a mentor outwith your own organisation.

This next phase of the scheme will launch in summer 2011; if you are interested in finding out more we will be holding a number of briefings throughout April and May. The briefings last for up to 1 hour, dates and venues are as follows:

- **Monday 25 April at 10.30am & Wednesday 4 May at 2pm**
Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Conf Room, Anderson Drive
- **Monday 9 May at 12 noon**
Robert Gordon University, Room H230, Health Faculty, Garthdee
- **Wednesday 18 May at 1pm**
Grampian Police, Conference Room, 1st Floor, FHQ, Queen Street
- **Thursday 19 May at 2pm**
Aberdeen City Council, Room 11.1, St Nicholas House, Broad Street
- **Thursday 19 May at 4pm**
Aberdeenshire Council, Formartine Room, L&D Annexe, Woodhill House
- **Wednesday 25 May at 2pm**
NHS Grampian, Deveron Room, Staff Home, Woodend Hospital, Eday Road
- **Friday 27 May at 1pm**
NHS Grampian, Suttie Centre, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill Road

Regardless of the organisation you work for please feel free to attend the briefing most convenient to you. If you cannot make any of the briefings but would still be interested in finding out more then please email: mentoring@aberdeencity.gov.uk



NHS Grampian Supporting the Professional

This training is aimed at anyone in Grampian whose job involves an element of health improvement. It is designed to raise awareness of the free services available to support your work with the public / service users / patients. The training is available free of charge.

Elgin - 22nd June 10:30 - 12:00
Aberdeen - 30th August 10:30 - 12:00
Fraserburgh - 25th October 10:30 - 12:00
Aberdeen - 15th November 10:30 - 12:00

For further information and details of how to book visit www.hi-netgrampian.org/stp The Supporting the Professional Team can also come to your workplace to deliver a session tailored to your staff. For more information or to arrange a session contact James Norman, Health Information Resources Co-ordinator at e. jamesnorman@nhs.net

Joint Improvement Team (JIT)

Visit <http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/e-newsletter/> to download the Spring 2011 edition of the JIT newsletter which contains amongst other items an update on the Reshaping Care Improvement Network which was established on 1st April 2011.

ACAS - Free Tools

Many of you will be thinking about performance appraisals for your staff around this time of year. If you're a manager, you play a critical role in agreeing objectives, reviewing performance and coaching and developing your staff.

For a health check of your performance management skills why not try the Performance Management module of the ACAS Model Workplace at www.acas.org.uk. It's one of ten modules in this free, interactive tool designed to be used by anyone who has responsibility for people management.

A free advisory booklet, How to Manage Performance sets out the various elements of the performance management cycle and is available to download at www.acas.org.uk. It examines how each part of the process can be made to work effectively and fit into the process as a whole. It also examines some of the pitfalls that may arise and how to deal with them.

Circle Dancing for Dementia - Training Workshop Thursday 9th June 2011, Inverness

Discover the potential of Circle Dancing when working with older people, people with dementia, and other health conditions.

Learn to deliver an activity with therapeutic benefits that can offer enjoyment to people with dementia and groups which may include their carers.

This training will be useful to:

- Activities / Care Staff
- NHS Staff
- Relatives and Volunteers
- Cost £50 per person

For more information visit <http://north.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1172> or Contact Elsie Normington, Development Officer, Merkinch Community Centre at e. elsie.merkinch@uwclub.net or t. 01463 239 563

Dementia Services Development Centre

Download the latest DSDC information at: <http://dementia.stir.ac.uk/newsletter>

Coalition of Care & Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) Providers, Personalisation and Self Directed Support 24th May 2011 (1000 - 1600) Edinburgh

This event will bring together policy makers, local authorities and providers to discuss and debate the key issues. Topics will include:

- ◆ Implementing the Self-directed Support Strategy: an update on progress and future legislation from the Scottish Government
- ◆ Emerging practice: a review of the differing approaches to personalisation and self-directed support across Scotland, and the roles that providers are being asked to play in implementation
- ◆ Productivity, efficiency and outcomes – what can we learn from the research?
- ◆ Overcoming potential barriers – an opportunity to discuss and debate providers' experiences of SDS to date, including identifying the key challenges and potential solutions.

For more information visit www.ccpscotland.org or contact e. caroline.scott@ccpscotland.org

Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care

Download SIRCC's May bulletin as a pdf at: www.sircc.org.uk

Reminders

Recovery Scotland 2011

Tuesday 17th May - Glasgow

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. For more information download the programme and booking form at www.pavpub.com (pdf)

Looked After Children Strategic Implementation Group - Commissioning Hub Activity

Children's Services Strategic Commissioning Workshops

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 will take place across Scotland in May and June 2011 in the following locations: **Friday 27th May, Inverness**; Thursday 16th June, Glasgow; Friday 17th June, Edinburgh; **Thursday 23rd June, Aberdeen**; Thursday 30th June, Stirling. For more information and / or a booking form contact lacsig@strath.ac.uk

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 - 28th May 2011, Inverness

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

Children in Scotland

Advance Notice Annual Conference 2011 - 3rd & 4th 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

Scottish Government Consultations:

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 Closing date 15th May 2011.

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 Closing date 15th June 2011.



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