



Learning Network SE bulletin February 2011

As many of you will know, funding for the four Learning Networks will cease on 31 March 2011. We are currently in discussion with Scottish Government and SSSC about a potential short period of transition, so that future arrangements can build on what the Learning Networks have achieved over the past five years. We hope to ensure that you will continue to be kept up to date with local and national events, training and news such as those featured in this bulletin.

We should have more information for you soon – any news will appear first on our website at <http://southeast.learningnetworks.org.uk/news.php> and we will have an update for you in our March 2011 bulletin.

Learning Network SE staff team

News and resources

Leading Together: report on leadership in Scotland

The University of Stirling, in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit and the Changing Lives User and Carer Forum, have published an analysis of leadership activity and development needs in Scotland's social services, titled *Leading Together*. This is part of the Scottish Government initiative to take forward the leadership agenda in Scottish social services, which is being led by the Learning Networks and SSSC. For more information on *Leading Together* visit the SSSC website at <http://tinyurl.com/64lxq83> or search at www.sssc.uk.com. For information on leadership activity in South East Scotland, visit our website at <http://southeast.learningnetworks.org.uk>.

Wider eligibility agreed for Skills Development Scotland fund

The SDS Flexible Training Opportunities scheme is now available to businesses with up to 150 employees (the previous limit was 50 employees) and with wider eligibility of courses and employees that can be funded. The scheme refunds half the cost of training for up to 10 courses, up to a maximum of £500 per course. For more details of the changes, visit our website at <http://southeast.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=1093>.



Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme begins on 28 Feb 2011

The PVG scheme is a new disclosure scheme which had been due to start in November 2010, but was postponed by the Scottish Government to ensure adequate IT systems were in place. The PVG scheme should improve on the current disclosure scheme (Disclosure Scotland) by reducing the need for people to complete a lengthy application form every time a disclosure is required. Instead, PVG will be a membership scheme that continually updates relevant information. For more information contact the PVG Scheme Help Service on **0870 609 6006** or at pvg.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Funding ends for Private Care Sector Workforce Initiative (PCSWI) and Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit

As planned, Scottish Government core funding for PCSWI and the Workforce Unit will come to an end on 31 March 2011. For more information visit the PCSWI website at <http://tinyurl.com/6bdc7mt> (or search on <http://workforceinitiative.co.uk>), and the Workforce Unit website at www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit.

SSSC Intelligence bulletin 4 published

SSSC's fourth *Intelligence* bulletin has been published and is available to download at www.sssc.uk.com/sssc/news/new-workforce-data-snapshot.html. These bulletins update employers about the key workforce issues for the sector, and this issue focuses on workforce data sources – essential when planning the workforce of the future.

E-learning: disability, schools & communities and vulnerable children

Three new interactive e-learning modules have been launched by the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO). They have been developed to help all professionals working with children and young people. For more information visit the C4EO website at www.c4eo.org.uk/elearning/.

NICE skin cancer guidance

This guidance details how the NHS and local authorities can help prevent skin cancer using public information, sun protection resources and by making changes to the environment. It is for NHS and other commissioners, managers and practitioners who have a role in preventing skin cancer. More details can be found on the NICE website at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH32>.



I Can Early Talk programme evaluation

An independent evaluation of the impact of early talk on addressing speech, communication and language needs in Sure Start Children's Centres. This qualitative evaluation of the I Can Early Talk programme focussed on children aged 3-4 years. Download the report from the Dept for Education website at www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR077.

Interactive website helps care leavers learn to live independently

This Community Care article describes how the Gat-a-Lifestyle programme and website prepare care leavers for independence, by using a website and a virtual house to help them learn crucial life skills. The article can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/63fh54z> or search on www.communitycare.co.uk.

Social Learning Handbook: a practical guide to using social media

This Handbook looks at both the theory and practice. Part 1 considers the emergence of social media, its impact on workplace learning, the range of social technologies available and strategies for supporting and encouraging social learning. Part 2 looks at some of the key social technologies and how they can be used to work and learn smarter. More details can be found at www.c4lpt.co.uk/handbook/index.html.

Early Years Framework – progress so far

This document provides an update on progress made on the Early Years Framework by the Scottish Government and partners, two years on from publication of the original document: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/337715/0110884.pdf.

Commissioning zone

A new website developed by NHS Networks is helping commissioners by bringing together useful information for clinicians, managers and anyone else involved in commissioning. For more information visit www.networks.nhs.uk/commissioning.

No health without mental health: a cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages

This UK Government strategy sets out six shared objectives to improve the mental health and well-being of the nation, and to improve outcomes for people with mental health problems. To download the strategy visit <http://tinyurl.com/6czojj6> or search on the Dept of Health website at www.dh.gov.uk.



‘Big Society’ in the UK: a policy review

Alongside the UK Coalition Government’s historic public spending cuts, the ‘Big Society’ has become a major narrative in UK political discourse. This article reviews key features of Big Society policies against their aims of rebalancing the economy and mending ‘Broken Britain’:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1099-0860.2010.00351.x/full>.

The Social Fund: a review of selected literature

This literature review examine what the Social Fund consists of, how it operates and who benefits from it. The review also considers how the Fund could be more fully aligned to Scottish Government priorities. For more information go to www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/336146/0109976.pdf.

Learning Network events

Are you afraid of IT?

Friday 25 February, Edinburgh

Organised by **SSSC, IRISS and the Learning Networks**, this is a conference and exhibition about **technology to support social service practice**. The format will be a mixture of keynote speakers and practical workshops. The audience will include senior managers, learning and development managers, practitioners and IT managers.

The conference will offer a range of workshops aimed at demystifying the use and range of learning technologies. It will offer assistance in developing cost efficient and accessible solutions for the social services workforce. For more information visit the conference website

www.emerging-social-technology.info.

Engaging in Better Outcomes for Service Users and Carers

Monday 14 March, Perth

This conference, hosted by **Learning Network Tayforth**, will take a practical look at how to develop and encourage an outcomes focussed approach. It will explore the implications of an outcomes focussed approach for service users, carers, staff and organisations. This **FREE** event is open to everyone in the social services workforce – for more information, contact Anne Bruce on **01382 504194** or at abruce@tayforthsssln.co.uk.



Events

Social Care Association Annual Seminar

14-15 March 2011, Glasgow

The 2011 Social Care Association (SCA) seminar is “**Investing in Relationships: The building blocks of good practice in support, care and assistance**”. The event will consider relationships of all kinds, both with service users and with other professionals, in the context of social care. For a full programme and booking form, visit the SCA website at www.socialcareassociation.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=60.

Early Years Conference: Are We Securely Attached?

Thursday 17 March, Edinburgh

This conference is organised and subsidised by the **East Lothian Council Early Years and Childcare Team**. It aims to raise awareness of the critical importance of Early Years development in improving children’s life chances. Keynote speakers are **Robin Balbernie**, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, and **Suzanne Zeedyk**, Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology. For more information and to download a booking form, visit <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/earlyyears/>.

Public Service Reform and Long Term Conditions

Tuesday 22 March, Perth

The **Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland (LTCAS) Annual Conference and AGM 2011** will focus on working with people and building communities. The event will debate how asset-based approaches can inform a vision for sustainable, high quality services that harness the capacity of Scotland’s people and communities. The event is aimed at people with long term conditions, carers, and those working in the sector. For more information, visit the LTCAS website www.ltcas.org.uk or call **0141 404 0231**.

Play on the Longest Day! Play Scotland Playday Seminar

Wednesday 30 March, Strathclyde Country Park

Play Scotland would like to invite everyone to celebrate Playday in Scotland on 21 June, and this seminar will give participants an opportunity to hear from staffed play provision such as schools and out of school care of their plans for Playday 2011. For more information contact Sharon Forrester on **0131 440 9070** or at sharonforrester@playscotland.org.



Reminders of previously advertised events

Social Innovation Events

Wednesday 30 March, Stirling

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and **SSSC** have organised a series of social innovation events to help leaders at all levels in health and social services to: improve use of knowledge; define creative solutions; and develop a network of leaders focused on translating knowledge into action. For more information on these and past social innovation events, visit the NES Knowledge Network at www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/together/social-innovation-events.aspx.

Training and workshops (short courses)

Contemporary issues in child protection seminar series

Tuesdays in March-April 2011, Glasgow

The **Scottish Child Care and Protection Network (SCCPN)** will hold a series of seminars over the next two months to look at recent research and its implications for practice. The seminars remaining in the series are:

- *It takes big courage* – 1 March
- *Family focussed approaches to parental substance misuse* – 15 March
- *Anxiety and child protection: implications for practice* – 29 March
- *Child protection and disabled children* – 5 April
- *Upstream and downstream in neglect* – 19 April

For more information, visit the SCCPN website at www.sccpn.stir.ac.uk/events.php.

SCLD new training courses

March 2011, Glasgow

The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD) have published their training catalogue for March 2011. Courses include **Personalisation and Self Directed Support**, **Graphic facilitation** and **Employability** workshops such as **Employer Engagement** and **Employment Planning**. For more details, visit the SCLD website at www.sclid.org.uk/what-we-offer/training.



Reminders of previously advertised training

Childcare Academy

Beginning 28 February, Edinburgh

The Childcare Academy, run by **North Edinburgh Childcare**, is for unemployed individuals who want to work with children. The training is free and is approximately 20-30 hours a week. Participants will gain significant experience of working with children, together with recognised childcare qualifications including Accredited Children's First Aid, Food Hygiene certificates and an SVQ Level 2 in Children's Care Learning and Development. For more details contact Barbara Webster on **0131 311 6926** or at barbara.webster@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk.

Training for Trainers *and* Person Centred Planning

Training for Trainers – Monday 7 March, Edinburgh

Person Centred Planning – 14 and 21 March 2011, Edinburgh

These courses are held by **KMCP Training**. **Training for Trainers** suits people who are new to training or who wish to reflect on their current working practice. **Person Centred Planning** is an introduction to this dynamic and fresh approach to inclusion. For more information or to book a place, email KMCP Training at info@kchambersassociates.co.uk.

Social Networking Workshops

September 2010-March, locations throughout Scotland

These **free** workshops will be held by **IRISS** to explore **social networking tools** such as microblogs, social bookmarking and wikis. Unlike desktop computer skills, social networking is **experiential** in nature. It has to be tried in order to understand it, and the understanding required to make good use of social networks is **cultural** rather than procedural. By the end of these workshops participants will have a better understanding of these tools and be able **to assess their potential uses**. For more information and details of dates and locations, visit the IRISS online booking system at <http://iriss.eventbrite.com/> or contact Marta Ribeiro on **0141 228 6378** or at marta.ribeiro@iriss.org.uk.



Accredited courses (leading to qualifications)

ARC Scotland Leadership and Supervision awards

ARC Scotland will run two SQA accredited programmes beginning in **April 2011**. ILA grants can be used towards the cost of both courses. For more information contact Muriel McLeod at muriel.mcleod@arcuk.org.uk or on **0131 663 4444**.

- **An Introduction to Leadership**

Suitable for workers in support roles wishing to develop knowledge, skills and confidence in leadership. The award comprises two NQ units, altogether providing 9 SCQF credits at Level 5. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nq-intro-to-leadership>.

- **Professional Development Award (PDA) in Health & Social Care Supervision**

Suitable for supervisors in housing support or residential services, this is a stand-alone award that can contribute to the qualification requirements for Supervisor registration with SSSC. The award comprises two HN units, altogether providing 16 SCQF points at Level 7. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/pda-health-social-care>.

Consultations

Self-directed Support: a draft Bill for consultation

Deadline for response: Thursday 17 March

This follows an earlier consultation on the outline proposals for the Bill, completed in June 2010. Last month the Scottish Government together with COSLA launched a ten year strategy on self-directed support. The strategy set out a vision where personalised, person-centred support becomes the mainstream approach for all. This draft Bill presents the Scottish Government's legislative proposals to underpin the strategy. More information about this consultation can be found on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations. If you have any queries contact Kenneth Pentland at Kenneth.pentland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.



scottish social services
learning network
south east

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The Right to Adapt Common Parts in Scotland

Deadline for response: Friday 1 April

The Scottish Government is consulting on regulations which will give disabled people the right to make adaptations to common parts of the building they live in. Common parts are those parts of a building that are not owned by any one person, like the stairs or the front door in a block of flats. At the moment, disabled people can only have adaptations made to common parts if everybody who owns a share of the common parts gives permission. More information about this consultation can be found on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations. If you have any queries contact Simon Roberts on **0141 271 3786** at simon.roberts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Learning Network SE welcomes feedback on our bulletin. If you have any comments, please get in touch at learning.network@ed.ac.uk or on **0131 650 4660**.

If you have been forwarded this bulletin or found it on our website, you might like to complete our online membership form at www.learningnetworks.org.uk/signup.php and receive it direct to your inbox.

www.learningnetworks.org.uk/southeast Tel. 0131 650 4660 learning.network@ed.ac.uk

We aim to circulate as wide a range of information as possible to our members. Inclusion in this bulletin should not be considered as a recommendation of a particular event or training course.