



# Scottish Social Services Learning Network West E-bulletin

Website: [www.west.learningnetworks.org.uk](http://www.west.learningnetworks.org.uk)



scottish social services  
learning network  
west

## Welcome to our October Ebulletin

Welcome to our 10th ebulletin of the year. This month's edition is packed full of up and coming events most of which are free. Learning Network West continues to promote shared training and learning opportunities across all three sectors. With a combination of our Local Learning Network meetings and our partnership working, we aim to keep you up to date with the latest events, conferences, consultations and reports. If you wish to advertise any forthcoming events, training or meetings please contact [caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk).

## What's Happening in the Learning Network West?

**25th October**, 9.30am till 12.30pm, **Facilitative Trainer follow up**. This is another opportunity to share your experiences and discuss how you have put into practice the skills and techniques used on the 2 day Facilitative Trainer course, [click here](#) to book a place.

**26th October**, 9am to 4pm, **LAST CHANCE TO BOOK A PLACE** on **West Dunbartonshire LPLN "Paths to Partnership"** event. This is an opportunity for all organisations interested in partnership working across West Dunbartonshire social services sector to come together. To book a place [click here](#).

**2nd November**, 9.30am to 12.30pm, **West Dunbartonshire LPLN** meeting, Carman Centre, Renton, [click here](#) to book a place.

**2nd November**, 9.30am till 12.30pm, **Kinharvie Facilitation Skills Development Day**. **THERE ARE STILL A FEW PLACES AVAILABLE**. This development day will give you a chance to discuss and liaise with others who are using the skills developed in the previous 2 day course. There will also be an opportunity to learn new techniques. Priority will be given to delegates who have attended the Facilitative Trainer follow up days, [click here](#) to book a place.

**3rd November**, **Partnerships and Practice event, The Park Hotel Kilmarnock**. In partnership with Local Practitioner Fora, Ayrshires and Dumfries and Galloway LLN, Learning Network West hosting this event. Theme of the day will be Partnership Working and Sharing Practice. There will be speakers and themed conversation on the day [click here](#) for further information.

**8th November**, 1.30pm, **Glasgow Local Learning Network Meeting**, Mitchell Library, [click here](#) to book a place

**9th November**, **Leadership Event, Glasgow Caledonian University**, The Scottish Government has asked the SSSC and the Scottish Social Services Learning Networks (SSSLN's) to take forward the strategic direction for leadership in social services in Scotland, building on work already carried out through the Changing Lives Leadership and Management group. The SSSC has commissioned the University of Stirling and partners to scope leadership activity to date, and engage with the sector to identify gaps and development needs. Similar work has been undertaken by the SSSLNs in relation to leadership communities. A series of events in November 2010 will look at the vision for leadership in social services in Scotland, based on the evidence from the scoping and engagement. For further information [click here](#) or to book a place contact [Anne.Whigham@sssc.uk.com](mailto:Anne.Whigham@sssc.uk.com) To find out more about Leadership go to Learning Network West Leadership page <http://west.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=889>

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## What's Happening in the Learning Network West Cont'd?

**11th November**, 10.30am, **Argyll & Bute Local Learning Network**, The George Hotel Inverary, [click here](#) to book a place.

**12th November**, 9.30am, **Inverclyde Local Learning Network Meeting**, Venue TBC, [click here](#) to book a place.

**16th November**, **Personalisation—What does it Mean?** In partnership with Loretto Care LN West invite you to attend an information sharing event in North Lanarkshire [click here](#) to book a place.

**17th November** 9.30am, **Renfrewshire Local Learning Network Meeting**, Paisley, LN West offices, [click here](#) to book a place

**18th November**, **Personalisation—What does it Mean?** 9.15, till 1pm. In partnership with East Renfrewshire LPLN, LNW will be hosting an event focussing on Personalisation What does it Mean?. More information will follow shortly however to book a place [click here](#).

## ***Proposed up and coming Events – Watch this space!***

### **Early Years and Leadership**

Watch this space for further information on a series of 'Masterclasses' to follow up the Early Years event in Kilmarnock earlier this year.

### **Good Practice Guide Event**

**24th November, venue to be confirmed** - In partnership with Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, Learning Network West will be hosting an event around the Good Practice Guide. To have a look at the guide click on link <http://www.serviceusercarergoodpractice.org.uk/>. To express and interest contact email [caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk)

### **A LEARN Event**

**27<sup>th</sup> January**, in partnership with LEARN (A Local Learning Network for service users and carers), Learning Network West will host an event which will focus on people who use services and carers and social work/social care students sharing their experience. To express an interest in this event contact [caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk).

## News/Consultations/Publications/Reports

**Voluntary Sector Workforce Unit Autumn Newsletter**—You can now download the Workforce Unit's Autumn Newsletter this edition focuses on Leadership. Click on link to access. <http://www.ccpscotland.org/assets/files/vsswu/Newsletter/Newsletter21Autumn2010Final.pdf>

The **Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit** would like to invite you to take part in a survey being conducted jointly with CCPS and the Housing Support Enabling Unit. The purpose of this is to provide an introduction to various models and tools associated with adopting an outcomes approach within social care and support settings. The survey can be accessed [here](#). Closing date is **12th November 2010**. [Click here](#) to access briefing note.

**Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme**—The latest edition of a Scottish Government newsletter to keep people updated on the implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme is now available to download. [Click here](#) to access.

**Important information for employers and managers of housing support services and care at home** The SSSC's Register will open soon for managers in housing support services and care at home services. As employers it's vital that you are aware what this means for your service and your managers. SSSC will be holding events around Scotland to help you find out all you need to know about registration and get your managers prepared to register [click here](#) for further information.

**Workforce Solutions** Meeting the expectations in the workforce development and registration agendas for the sector can be quite challenging. The Scottish Social Services Council has developed a range of resources to assist employers to meet these challenges. Some are focussed on supporting the individual employee to plan and progress their own learning and development, others are intended for employers to support them in developing the workforce they need now, or may need in the future. The site has been designed to give you access to these tools. [Click here](#) to access.

**Social Services Knowledge Scotland (SSKS)** has just re-launched it's website. Check out the new features and new look by clicking on link. [www.sks.org.uk](http://www.sks.org.uk)



lived experience  
Training

• inclusive learning • supportive learning • first hand experience

Lived Experience Training is a new project, developed by Glasgow Association for Mental Health.

Its courses are delivered by professionals and trainers who bring the powerful and authentic voice of people with lived experience of mental health issues to staff training. This includes expertise in mental health problems, supporting recovery, and being consumers of services.

Trainers have experience of delivering training on a wide variety of topics in mental health and good practice in social care. For further information contact Frieda Park or Pauline McCabe on:

0141 552 5592 [lxtraining@gamh.org.uk](mailto:lxtraining@gamh.org.uk)

## **Mentor UK, Launch of Kinship Care Resources Guide in Scotland, Tuesday 26th October, Jack Kane Sports Centre, Edinburgh, 10am–1pm**

Over the last 2 years Mentor UK has been working closely with kinship carers across Scotland to understand their circumstances and to try produce a resource that will help them support the children in their care.

“Kinship carers are grandparents, aunts or uncles who often sacrifice their way of life to care for young, frightened and often damaged children. Yet kinship carers themselves often face many difficulties.

They have financial and legal worries, feel unsupported and undervalued by their local authority”.

Kinship carers have told Mentor UK they have no clear structure or definition of their role. They can suffer isolation and frustration, and have a desperate need for support, advice and guidance.

Mentor UK’s definitive guide has been produced so that kinship carers across Scotland can gain a clear sense of their role and the responsibilities that come from becoming a full time carer of a close relative or friend’s child.

The guide provides clear information for kinship carers for each step of the process; what support they may receive from their local authority and their financial and legal rights and responsibilities.

Why not go along and learn more about this guide and the opportunity to meet with the kinship carers who have been involved and the children they care for.

Hear their story and help us raise awareness of kinship care across Scotland. A buffet shall also be provided. This event is FREE. To book a place please contact Heather on [heather.mcveigh@mentoruk.org](mailto:heather.mcveigh@mentoruk.org) or on 0131 552 8660.

## **Building Healthier, Safer Workplaces within the Voluntary Sector, 1st December 2010, Glasgow**

Loretto, the STUC and the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives are holding a series of meetings to further develop Building Healthier and Safer Workplaces within Voluntary Sector Organisations.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at Loretto Housing Association/Loretto Care, Lipton House, 170 Crown Street, Glasgow, G5 9XD.

The meeting hopes to explore:

- Information on services that Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives can offer your organisation;
- How worker involvement improves H&S in your organisation;
- What is the role of a health and safety rep?;
- What is the role of a H&S officer and do we need one in my organisation?

For more information or to book a place please contact Terry Anderson (STUC) on 07791 704 682 or at [tanderson@stuc.org.uk](mailto:tanderson@stuc.org.uk) Meetings are also taking place in Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire.

## Training Facility—Learning Network West, Paisley

Learning Network West's Training facility offers extremely competitive rates for anyone who wishes to run a course or event.

When you book our training room you also have access to 2 break out rooms completely free of charge.

What makes us different from most organisations is that we include the use of a laptop, projector, sound system and flipcharts free of charge. We can offer free parking and are only a 10 minute walk away from the local train station.

If you are thinking of having a training event why not come along a view our premises. We will try to negotiate the best rate possible given the current financial restrictions across all organisations.

For further information contact [Denise.Alexander@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:Denise.Alexander@westlearn.org.uk) or call 0141 848 1500.

## Challenging Times Creative Solutions, 2nd November, Edinburgh

This first annual IRISS Forum will be a full-day event providing creative solutions and practical ideas to support Scotland's social services in these challenging times.

Those attending will have the opportunity to hear from a number of speakers and to find out how IRISS can support the social services workforce to 'do things differently.' They will focus on how solutions can be found by working in partnership to deliver successful outcomes for the people that access Scotland's social services.

The IRISS Forum will be of benefit to all those from across the statutory and independent sector who have responsibility for the improvement and development of social services and for the promotion of new ways of supporting people.

## With Work in Mind, Mental Health, Work & Welfare Reform, One day CPD Event, 26th November, Edinburgh,

This fully CPD certified event comes at a crucial time as the new Coalition Government outlines its plans for a radical overhaul of the Welfare-to-Work programmes, launches a national consultation on its proposals and the Scottish Government digests the details of the Comprehensive Spending Review and calculates the effect this could have on employment in Scotland's public sector and beyond.

By attending you will find out more about the new welfare reform rules directly from one of the UK ministers involved in the change and have the opportunity to debate the policy with those most intimately involved in its formulation. Speakers include; **Lord David Freud**, Minister for Welfare Reform, Department for Work and Pensions, UK Government, **Billy Watson**, Chief Executive, Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), **Shona Robison MSP**, Minister for Public Health, The Scottish Government, **Professor Jillian Morrison**, Head of Undergraduate Medical School and Professor of General Practice, University of Glasgow, **Robin McGee**, Researcher, Health and Wellbeing, The Work Foundation and author of the 'Body and Soul Report'. For full details, and to register today, please go to [holyrood.com/mentalhealth](http://holyrood.com/mentalhealth)

## PhysiCare—Moving and Assisting Provider

PhysiCare are one of the providers of Moving and Assisting training for social services in all 8 Local Authorities within the CVLDG (Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group). It was agreed at a recent Local Learning Network meeting that it would be beneficial if LN members could access these services offered.

PhysiCare have agreed to offer these contract rates to all members of the Social Services Learning Network **West**. For further information on courses available or to enquire about open courses contact Sharon McArdle on 01555 678530 or email: [training@physicare.co.uk](mailto:training@physicare.co.uk). [Flyer 1](#) and [Flyer 2](#).

## Free Human Rights Training

The Scottish Human Rights Commission, supported by Scottish Care through the Workforce Initiative, has developed training and awareness raising resources relating to the care and support of older people.

Between October 2010 and January 2011 there are a number of free half-day courses open for registration. Visit the Workforce Units website for more information <http://www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/news-and-events/news/stories/free-human-rights-training>

## Welcome Jenna Currie to the Learning Network **West**



Hi Everyone my name is Jenna Currie – I recently began working with the Learning Network as an administrator, taking over from Nicola Bain.

I graduated last summer from Glasgow Caledonian University with a degree in Business and Management. I was then employed by the University as an HR Assistant. I then applied for the position of Administrator for Learning Network **West** and successfully got the job. I am now settling in to my new role with the Learning Network. I'm enjoying the challenges and experiences, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead.

I've been introduced to lots of friendly and helpful people, both within the network and related agencies, and I am looking forward to meeting many more!

