



Scottish Social Services Learning Network West E-bulletin

Website: www.west.learningnetworks.org.uk



scottish social services
learning network
west

Happy New Year! Welcome to our first edition of the Year— Relaunch of Website

A Happy New Year to all and welcome back.

To start the New Year, we are pleased announce the launch of our new web site. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

We have completely updated the site to reflect the needs of our members and to make access to information on workforce learning and development even easier.

The new website includes a range of features we hope you will find useful, such as:

- news bubbles collating the latest news, events and consultations/tenders from throughout the site to our homepages;
- a more sophisticated events page, pulling in events from other learning and development organisations, as well as our own;
- a separate news page so we can provide more news and pull in news from other relevant sources;
- easy to access listings of consultations / tenders
- blogs;
- improved navigation, and much, much more.

The new site reflects how the four Learning Networks work to national aims and outcomes. However, you can also find out what is happening in your own geographical area by browsing the website of your regional Learning Network.

We are mindful that our website will be accessed by users with a variety of needs and through a variety of devices so we have built the site to conform to at least Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Level AA conformance <http://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG2AA-Conformance> as well as striving to Level AAA where possible.

We welcome your feedback, so if you would like to tell us what you think of the new site, we would like to hear your views. <http://west.learningnetworks.org.uk/feedback.php>

We hope you enjoy using our new website!

Learning Network West page - <http://west.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=195>
National Learning Network page - <http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/show.php?id=73>

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News/Consultations/Publications/Reports

Consultation on Draft Social Care Procurement Scotland Guidance: Summary Paper Service User and Carer Involvement In recent years, concern has been expressed about how some local authorities have been buying (procuring) care and support services from voluntary and private sector providers. Service users and carers have said that they have not been happy about the amount of information they have received and how their views have been taken into account. The Scottish Government decided that it would be helpful to address some of these issues by preparing Guidance which details each step of the social care procurement process. Click on link for further information <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/298711/0093197.pdf>

'Advocacy makes you feel brave': Advocacy support for children and young people in Scotland [Publication] - This report presents the findings from a scoping study into advocacy support for children and young people in Scotland. Click on link to read more. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/298414/0093082.pdf>

Glasgow Merger Proposal -The Scottish Ministers wish to consult on a proposal by Glasgow Metropolitan College, Glasgow College of Nautical Studies and Central College, Glasgow to merge into a single, new college, [view the consultation document](#); the colleges are likely to seek Ministerial approval of the merger. Views are also sought on what would be a consequential requirement to promote an order to designate any new, merged college as a 'fundable body' for the purpose of receiving financial support from the Scottish Funding Council.

NHS Scotland Leadership Development Strategy—Delivering the Quality Through Leadership to access this document click on link <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/289816/0088790.pdf>

A Recipe for Abuse? - Findings and recommendations from the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland investigation into the care and treatment of residents in a supported landlord scheme following allegations of abuse. [Click here](#) to read report.

Skills for Care, together with Association for Real Change (ARC), has developed a toolkit to support people to employ their own personal assistants. The toolkit helps small employers deal with the basic issues and legalities of employing their own staff, such as: employing a personal assistant., being a good employer, getting started, sorting out problems and additional resources. Click on link to find out more. http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/entry_to_social_care/recruitment/PAtoolkit.aspx

A Resource Guide to Engagement Standards, Guidance and Tool Kits—These reports are a result of research into disability organisations across Scotland and their capacity to influence public bodies. Two of the reports are on the mapping of disability organisations across Scotland and the capacity of disability organisations to engage with public authorities. Taken together the three reports contribute to a clearer understanding of disability organisations in Scotland and to a heightening appreciation of how they can individually and collectively engage with public bodies. Click on links: [report one](#), [report two](#) and [report three](#)

Voluntary Sector Development Fund Award—A total of 67 organisations throughout the country will receive a share of approximately £900,000 being distributed by the Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF). The purpose of the VSDF is to contribute to the costs associated with meeting the qualification criteria set by the Scottish Social Services Council for registration and to assist employers in achieving a qualified workforce. The Workforce Unit carried out an evaluation of this year's applications, which showed encouraging progress is being made in the categories eligible for this round of funding (Supervisors, Practitioners and Workers in Care Homes & Housing Support Managers) in the organisations who applied for the funding. Results show that of these people, 40% are now qualified in the voluntary sector workforce. [Click here](#) for a list of the organisations receiving awards from the VSDF this year.

Equal Connected and Contributing Conference, 24th February 2010, Perth Concert Hall

The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, in collaboration with the Open University and the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services, is organising a one day research conference on **Equal Connected and Contributing** - to reflect upon the contributions and participation of people with learning disabilities within our society. For further information [click here](#) to go to the [SCLD](#) or [IRISS](#) website.

Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability

To find out more about the wide range of open training courses the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability are running, check out their yearly training calendar <http://www.sclld.org.uk/>

Facilitative Trainer Course New Dates

Due to popular demand Learning Network West are running a further 5 Facilitative Trainer courses as follows:

1/2 February 2010, 11/12 February 2010, 18/19 February 2010, 18/19 March 2010
25/26 March 2010.

Organisations that have not had a place in the past will be given priority over organisations who have previously attended.

This free 2 day course will be held at our offices in Paisley, lunch will be provided.

To request a place, sign up online by clicking on our events page of our new website: <http://west.learningnetworks.org.uk/events.php> or contact caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk.

For further information see [flier](#).

The Future Jobs Fund

The Future Jobs Fund is a fund of around £1 billion to support the creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market.

Click on link to read more <http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/12423.html>

Employability Learning Network

The Employability website has been designed as a practical guide for anyone who is involved in employability. The website has been produced in response to researched views and it is intended to help you understand what employability is, your role in it and how to design, deliver and measure the impact of employability approaches. To find out more click on link. <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/home.aspx>

Vacancy – Practice Learning & Development Manager CIRCLE

The above post has become available at CIRCLE. [Click here](#) for further information. Closing date for applications—1st February 2010 with interviews being held on 12th February 2010.

To apply, please email info@circlescotland.org or call the Head Office at 0131 552 0305 for an application pack.

Vacancy—Practice Teacher, North Ayrshire Council

The above post has become available at North Ayrshire Council. This full time post will be based at APL Centre, Stevenson, salary £30,858-£33,763.

The Role will be to Co-ordinate, plan and develop practice learning opportunities for social work students and others as required. To act as Practice Teacher to social work students actively contributing to the range of work undertaken by the learning and development section. To apply and find our more click on link: https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/fe/tpl_ScottishPortal19.asp?s=raCzFKhUsJVaxXjJsp&jobid=74429,4858991287&key=27879468&c=238787029823&pagestampa=segihewqrxryvminzu.

University of Stirling, Continuous Professional Development Opportunity

There will be a new intake for the module in Leadership and Management for First Line Managers in Social Services starting on 24th February 2010. The course runs from February to May 2010 with ten direct teaching days based on the university campus. The module forms part of a Certificate in Management and applications are also welcome for the partner module: Supervising, Managing or Mentoring commencing in April 2010.

Contact Frances Patterson (m.f.patterson@stir.ac.uk) for more information or Mairead Cody, CPD Administrator, (mairead.cody@stir.ac.uk) for an application form.

The Workers Educational Association, Scotland - Update/ New Developments

The WEA is a national provider of learning opportunities for adults both in the community and the workplace.

- **WEA can offer free and flexible workplace learning in South Lanarkshire** which is tailored to meet your needs. Examples of courses includes: 'Confident Case Notes', and 'Customer Communication'.
- **The Future Jobs Fund** is a UK wide fund of around £1 billion to support the creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people and others who face disadvantage in the labour

market.

Through this fund WEA will be helping to fill 90 jobs that benefit the public across the Central Belt in the next 18 months. This is an opportunity for your organisation to benefit.

- They can offer **Mid-Life Planning courses** designed to assist individuals to plan for their retirement.

If you would like to find out more about any of the opportunities mentioned above please contact: Kathleen Richardson on 0141 221 0003 k.richardson@weascotland.org.uk

Welcome to our New Recruits

Learning Network West are pleased to welcome our new recruits Allison Smith, John McGarry and Peter Swindon

Allison and John will job share the post of Practice Teacher/Development Worker. Alison has started employment with us and we are hopeful that John will join us in early February.

Allison Smith - Allison has recently been appointed as Practice Teacher/Development Worker (P/T). The responsibilities of the post include practice teaching, developing supports for Independent Practice Teachers and developing new practice learning opportunities for social work students. Allison worked as practice teacher for many years both in the voluntary and statutory sectors, most recently with North Ayrshire, Quarriers and Crossroads Youth and Community Association. Prior to that her experience was as a basic grade social worker, in adult family placement and with adults with complex needs. She looks forward to the challenges ahead!

John McGarry – John will share the responsibilities of The Practice Teacher / Development worker role with Alison and will be joining the team from the beginning of February for two days per week whilst retaining his Learning and Development role with Glasgow City Council where he is currently a Team Leader. John has been in his current role with Glasgow City for the past 7 years and has an overall responsibility for Practice Learning and student support as well as other learning remits around community care and 'equalities' training. Prior to working for Glasgow City, John worked for Richmond Fellowship Scotland for 7 years in various management and training roles. His professional experience includes working in the areas of adult care and mental health although John also worked in generic settings including children and families and criminal justice with Strathclyde Regional Council in the Glasgow area for a period of 17 years. John is looking forward to joining and contributing to the work of the team.

Peter Swindon Practice Teacher (P/T) - Peter recently took up a post with North Lanarkshire Council Children and Families under 12's team, he has been seconded on a part time temporary basis to Learning Network West, to help support forthcoming placements. He will work with North Lanarkshire Council on a Monday and Tuesday, the remainder of the week will be spent with the Learning Network. Peter has a background in residential care, community work, area team and voluntary sector work and Practice Teaching spanning many, many years. Prior to starting with us, Peter worked as a Practice Learning & Development Manager at Circle.



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Scottish Social Services
Learning Network West
Studio 49, Sir James Clark
Building
Abbey Mill Business Centre
Paisley, PA1 1TJ

Phone: 0141 848 1500
Fax: : 0141 848 1600
E-mail:
caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk

Learning Network West, Training Facility, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley

Learning Network West's training facility is available to hire. If you wish to run a one day event or use our premises over a longer period of time we will be happy to assist. Our premises are located at the Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley, we are conveniently situated for public transport and parking is available.

Our rates are very competitive and include:
Audio/loop systems
Laptop/projector facilities
DVD/Video
Flipcharts

White boards
Tea/coffee

Our main Training room can comfortably hold up to 35 delegates depending on layout.

We also have two small break out rooms which can hold a maximum of 8 to 10 people.

Lunches can be arranged at an extra cost.

If you wish to enquire about prices, dates etc. please contact

denise.alexander@westlearn.org.uk or call 0141 848 1500.