

The newsletter of the Falkirk Area Network

LINKS TO LITERACIES



Literacies are in the news

Not only do we have the Big Plus Campaign (see page 2) on the T.V. but Eastenders, the BBC Soap Opera, has introduced literacy issues into one of their character story lines. Kevin Miller, a fairly recent newcomer to Albert Square, has been exposed as not being able to read and he has been sharing his feelings about not being able to provide for his family as a result of this.

Never mind what you think about 'soaps' it does bring the issue straight to the heart of many households.

Spotting someone with literacy difficulties. How do we spot someone? What are the indicators which may require us to be sensitive to this? If you may be interested in getting training for your staff in literacies 'spotting & referring' then come along to the next meeting of our network.

What do we mean by literacies

It is *'The ability to read, write and use numbers to handle information, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems as family members, workers, citizens and life long learners'* (ALNIS Report 2001)

This tells us that literacy includes knowledge, skills and understanding. That these are all relevant in private, family, community and working lives. That such key life areas inform what has to be learned and that literacy and numeracy are employed for a purpose.

Scotland's Adult Literacies Curriculum

This is to be given a national launch in Edinburgh on Tuesday 3 May so look out for press coverage of it. The purpose of the new curriculum framework is:

- To promote a Scottish philosophy and approach to adult literacy.
- To show how it can be done with the learner at the heart of the process.
- To improve the quality of Scottish Adult literacy

For further information on the new curriculum contact Catherine McKinlay, Falkirk Council Literacies Team Action Plan Co-ordinator, Tel no 01324 503670

Falkirk Literacies Team

At the last network meeting on Thursday, 10th March 2005 Catherine gave a presentation of the work of her team.

They:

- deliver core literacy provision classes throughout the Falkirk Council both during the day and in the evening.
- run short courses & accredited courses for people wishing to become literacies tutors
- develop and run literacies awareness raising and training and sessions for people working in voluntary organisations and in statutory services.

The team have a variety of literacies resources at Park Street and anyone interested should contact:

Catherine McKinlay, Tel 01324 603670



Your Link Workers are:-

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The date of the next meeting is:

Thursday, 9th June 2005
1.30pm (Tea/Coffee) 2.00pm
(Meeting)
@ Linked Work & Training Offices



*Learning Connections Communities Scotland
LearnDirect Scotland*

If you need help with reading, writing or numbers call The Big Plus. They can put you in touch with someone locally who can help you brush up on your skills.

They can help you be better at a wide range of things including:

- Filling in forms at work or home
- Understanding and writing letters
- Handling bills and bank statements

They can also help you learn in a way that suits you. They can be flexible about time too.



Or phone Falkirk Council's Adult Literacy & Numeracy Team direct

Resources—for advertising the Big Plus can be obtained from Catherine McKinlay, Tel no 01324 503670

CVS FALKIRK & DISTRICT

CVS Falkirk & District, the Council for the Voluntary Sector (CVS) serving the Falkirk Area, is an independent voluntary organisation supporting the development of the voluntary and community sector locally. It is a charity recognised by the Inland Revenue and company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a Board of Directors who are nominated and elected by organisations that have taken up membership of CVS Falkirk & District.

Membership to the CVS is open to organisations operating in and around the Falkirk Council area.

What do they do?

CVS Falkirk and District provides a wide range of support and services to groups, helping those that are starting up, as well as organisations that are already established. They help new groups and existing groups to develop, provide information and training, assist in liaison with local government and enable the views of voluntary organisations to be represented.

They offer support and services for local voluntary organisations and community groups in and around the Falkirk Council area, for example:

- Information on a range of issues concerning voluntary organisations and community groups, including funding, constitutions, management, training, organisational policies and procedures
- Providing resources such as meeting room hire, photocopying facilities etc

For more information please contact Brian Black, Tel no 01324 692009, e-mail Brian@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Links to Literacies

In his work, Brian meets potential volunteers with literacy skills development needs as well as many volunteers who would like to become literacy tutors.

Resources



Adult Learners Week 2005

Falkirk Council Community Services

"Our Big Celebration" - Event

Saturday, 21st May 2005 @ Falkirk College

This event is not for general public but invitation only—if you are interested and would like more information please contact Catherine McKinlay, Tel no 01324 503670.

www.thechance.co.uk

The chance is a free service that provides learning support to improve reading, writing or number skills.

0800 587 2836

Books can be obtained through the Links to Literacies Project and please contact either Isobel or Pauline on 01324 489666 for a list of resources.

Remember!

You may be able to access training for your staff through the Links to Literacies Project—Please contact either Isobel or Pauline on 01324 489666

Events/Useful Info

PDA: ESOL Literacies—Teaching adults reading, writing and numeracy

The new PDA qualification, ESOL Literacies—Teaching Adults Reading, Writing and Numeracy has been validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. You can find details of the Unit at the SQA website—www.sqa.org.uk. The PDA will be launched in April and a training pack will be produced in August.

Further information from Claire El Azebbi at Learning Connections,
clare.elazebbi@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk

Learning at Work Day

26 May is Learning at Work Day. It is an opportunity for organisations to show their commitment to staff development and give their workforce the opportunity to break from routine and learn something new. In 2005, Learning at Work Day will have four main themes:

Learning to Learn—the importance for employees and employers of considering how people learn most effectively, in order to make the very most of limited staff development budgets.

Skills for Life—the impact of limited basic skills on business effectiveness and on employees' own development.

Learning supporters—the potential of Union Learning Reps and other peer supporters in engaging and supporting workplace learners, especially if they're new to learning or doubtful about getting involved.

First line managers—the significant role played by supervisors and first line managers in supporting learning in the workplace, and how people in these roles can themselves be helped and supported.

Free publicity materials include flyers, posters and planning guides packed with advice and tips; as well as competitions and free e-learning resources. For further information on Learning at Work Day visit www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk

Literacy Tools Website

The literacy tools website was developed by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) for Ireland and contains online materials, games and tutor resources. For more information please visit www.literacytools.ie/home.cfm

Grundtvig Funding

Grundtvig funding is specifically for groups who work in some capacity with adult learners. It's an accessible European funding stream and involves making partnerships with other European projects. To find a partner you can apply to the British Council to obtain a small grant to travel to and take part in a contact seminars.

There are a number of Grundtvig partner-finding seminars (and a Minerva one—the ICT/ODL strand of Socrates) coming up in the next few weeks / months which you may be interested in applying for:

18th to 22nd May 2005 in Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece
Title—Languages for Integration

24th—29th May 2005 in Bucharest & Sibiu, Romania
Title—Arts, Craft and Traditions in Adult Education

9th—12th June 2005 in Graz, Austria
Title—Lifelong Learning for Senior Citizens

9th to 12th June 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia
Title—European Citizenship

16th—19th June 2005 in Leksand, Dalarna, Sweden
Title—Adult Education in Rural Areas—Basic Skills—Promotion, Recruitment, Guidance and Counselling, Distance and Work Place Learning

1st—4th September 2005 in Riga, Latvia
Title—The Ways of Decreasing the Differences of Adult Education between the City and the Countryside

Minerva partner-finding seminar
11th—15th May 2005 in Coimbra, Portugal
Title—ICT and Education

If you would like to receive further details about any of the above seminars, please e-mail Dimple Makwana at dimple.makwana@britishcouncil.org or call 020 7389 4279

Embedding and Integrating Literacy, Language and Numeracy Thursday, 16th June 2005, London

This conference will be of interest to:

Any literacy, language and numeracy tutors and providers who wish to share experiences and learn from each other about how an embedded approach works.

Policy makers who want to encourage more development of this kind.

Anyone interested in researching this approach.

For more information please visit the Niace website www.niace.org.uk