



The newsletter of the Falkirk Area Network

LINKS TO LITERACIES



Have you or your staff and volunteers encountered someone with literacy difficulties recently? Don't be too sure you haven't!

- ◆ What about the course participant who is constantly making mistakes on their expenses form and seeks assistance from the clerical support.
- ◆ What about the young person seeking advice on budgeting their money.
- ◆ What about the person who keeps forgetting their glasses and asks for everything to be read to them.
- ◆ What about the person who declines taking on the role of secretary in the committee because 'they don't have and can't work a computer'.

For years, people with literacy difficulties have developed excellent coping mechanisms which have enabled them to lead active lives and avoid the stigma that is associated with the lack of such skills. In the workplace, community and social arenas people don't tend to present themselves as having literacy difficulties, preferring to remain silent, withdrawn or fudge the issue.



Staff and volunteers who are aware of these issues may be able to spot the person encountering difficulties. It is they who may be able to sensitively raise the issue and offer support, guidance and a referral to individuals or organisations which can directly provide help for the individual.

It is estimated that there are 800,000 adults in Scotland (23%) who appear to have low level literacy and numeracy skills. In the Falkirk area alone, possibly 18—20,000 adults may be affected. (Falkirk Council Adult Literacy and Numeracy Team).

This is an intolerable situation and we all

need to do something to support and help individuals get the most out of life and develop their skills.



So why not encourage your staff and volunteers to come along to a '**Spotters and Referrers'** training session which we are organising for the voluntary sector within the Falkirk Area.

This training, which will be facilitated by Catharine McKinlay and Maureen Petrie of Falkirk Council, will take place on **Wednesday 5 October, 2.00— 4.30pm in the LWTCC Offices**. This training is free to the voluntary sector.

For further details and application forms please contact the network link workers Pauline Mercer or Isobel Brown

The date of the next meeting is:

**Thursday, 15th September 2005
1.30pm (Tea/Coffee) 2.00pm
(Meeting)
@ Linked Work & Training Offices**

Last Minute News

Adult Literacy/Numeracy Volunteer Tutor Training

Volunteer tutors are key to supporting the delivery of adult literacy/numeracy learning. Have you considered volunteering as an adult literacy/numeracy tutor? Yes, but not sure how to register your interest and not sure about what is expected from a volunteer tutor?

Information evenings will be held at Camelon Education Centre, Abercrombie Street, Camelon
ON

**Wednesday 21 September 6.30pm—9.00pm
AND**

Wednesday 28 September 6.30pm—9.00pm

There will be an opportunity at these sessions to find out about Adult literacy/numeracy provision in the Falkirk area and also the training required to be undertaken prior to becoming a volunteer tutor.

If you are interested in attending one of the above sessions, or want to know more about them, then please telephone Maureen Petrie on 01324 501990. (Please note that the evening lasts for 2 1/2 hours and is not a drop in session).

Development of the Falkirk Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 06/08 is now underway.

A number of planning sessions are being organised by the Falkirk Partnership the first of which will be on September 22.

So look out for an invitation to this event and other opportunities to feed into this process.



Your Link Workers are:-

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Learning Connections Communities Scotland
LearnDirect Scotland

Big Plus Website

Communities Scotland are in the process of designing and developing a Big Plus website with the intention that the website is ready for September 2005. The website will:

- ⇒ Raise awareness of the Big Plus (adapted to suit a range of target audiences).
- ⇒ Point potential learners to local provision (incorporating available multi-media materials).
- ⇒ Highlight projects with Big Plus branding developed by Learning Connections.

The Big Plus website will also provide information on the BBC R@W campaign to begin in October 2005.



The Central Scotland Racial Equality Council Ltd.

The Central Scotland Racial Equality Council Ltd (CSRECL) is a voluntary organisation, inaugurated in 1984 and established in 1987, working towards a racism-free Central Scotland.

Their belief is that working with people at the community level is a better way for linking with people, understanding their needs, bringing communities together and reducing racial conflicts.

CSRECL is opposed to all forms of discrimination and oppression. They actively promote racial justice and equality of opportunity for all without distinction. They are committed to planning and delivering our services in a manner which is transparent, professional, sensitive and values diversity.

Advocacy & Support

CSRECL actively take on casework, where appropriate, for victims of racial discrimination, attack and harassment. They also give talks and presentations on racial discrimination and reporting to community groups, staff of voluntary organisations, statutory and public bodies. CSRECL is also part of a network of agencies and bodies called RAHMAS (Racial Attack and Harassment Multi-Agency Strategy), continually monitoring incidents of racial attack and harassment in the Central Scotland area to be able to increase reporting of attacks by the victims, best assess the scale of the problems and how to approach solutions. For more information contact **Richard** on **01324 610950**.

'Connecting Communities'

Activities for these projects have included IT taster sessions and Information Exchange Forums (the most recent being held in Alloa and Falkirk on the 9th/10th August 2005) and are aimed at empowering local communities; improving access to information and services; building networks and establishing links between indigenous and minority communities as well as between minority communities themselves. For more information call **Stella** or **Lisa** on **01324 610950**.

Active Citizenship

These projects look to identify and support a meaningful and productive increase in the involvement of local individuals and groups in local policy making and civic life. A Solidarity Group Forum is currently being created, looking at issues that cross-cut many different cultures and communities. For more information, contact **Tarsisio** on **01324 610950**.

CSRECL regularly works with local partners and volunteers and produces newsletters for jobs and local events.

If you would like to know more about their work, become involved in projects or even become a Board member, please contact ::

CSRECL, Community Education Centre, Park St, Falkirk FK1 1RE

Telephone: 01324 610950

Fax: 01324 61095

Email: admin@centralscotlandrec.org.uk

www.centralscotlandrec.org.uk

A Community of Practice in Adult Literacies

The Scottish Further Education Unit are undertaking the work of establishing a community of practice in adult literacies on behalf of Learning Connections. They have recently facilitated a number of regional consultation events aimed at providing an opportunity for practitioners to shape and inform how communities of practice may evolve. The attendees have responded positively to this development.

Planning is also at an advanced stage to establish an on-line community facility that will be accessible to practitioners in early autumn. For further information, contact Iain Guthrie, Wider Access Advisor at SFEU, e-mail: iain.guthrie@sfeu.ac.uk

National Report on adult literacy and numeracy provision

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education has published "Changing Lives: Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland". The report evaluates aspects of progress on the national adult literacy and numeracy strategy. Its key finding was that adult literacies learners identified real and positive benefits from their participation.

The full report can be found at:

www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/clans.html

Resources



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

Mobile Phone Game helps Literacy Learners make Smart Connections

Smart Connections is a learning programme devised by Falkirk College and part funded by the Learning Connections Innovation in ICT and Literacies Fund to help mobile phone users understand the link between the type of phone and services they choose and their monthly bill.

Using a game based approach, Smart Connections invites learners into a mobile phone shop where they are faced with a series of decisions including which type of phone to select and whether to subscribe to a contract or choose Pay As You Go. This leads to a series of situations where they must choose whether or not to use their new phone, resulting in a monthly bill based on these decisions.

For more information contact:

Kathleen Marjoribanks, Falkirk College
E-mail Kathleen.Marjoribanks@falkirkcollege.ac.uk

or

Prue Pullen, Communities Scotland
E-mail: prue.pullen@communitiescotland.gsi.gov.uk

BBC CAMPAIGN

RaW—Reading and Writing; read more and write better with the BBC

From October 2005, the BBC will be launching RaW, an adult literacies initiative over a three to five year period aimed at adult readers in the UK between 25 and 54. The purpose is to improve literacies skills by creating a fun and interactive space to learn based around the everyday practical experiences of adult learners. It will be built around BBC programmes and talent, and engage with people's passions, interests and hobbies.

You can receive regular news updates from the BBC about the campaign www.bbc.co.uk/raw/newsletter.shtml and you can also register as a partner for RaW and select your level of involvement online www.bbc.co.uk/learning/proms/

LWTT online

Please visit the new Linked Work and Training web-site at

www.lwttc.org.uk

Free Community Leadership Training Edinburgh and Stirling Summer/Autumn 2005

A set of free training events aimed at practitioners, volunteers and community activists in voluntary adult learning organisations are now available to book. The training will provide you with a set of skills to improve the way in which your organisation represents the needs of the community to policy makers.

Topics include methods of engagement, facilitation skills, organisational confidence building and ICT for community involvement.

For further information, or to book a place at one of the sessions, contact Gavin Crosby at Learning Link Scotland on 0131 553 7992 or e-mail gcrosby@learninglinkscotland.org.uk

Get a Taste for Learning ...FREE!

A series of short games that offers a gentle introduction to computing skills has been produced by learndirect Scotland. The learning tasters are being given away free of charge on CD-ROM to voluntary sector organisations who are interested in developing the skills of staff, volunteers or service users.

The games will introduce people to very basic computer skills in a fun way through playing games. They take just five to ten minutes each to play and are diverse enough to be of interest to a range of people. Simple computer tasks are required to play the games, such as using the arrow navigation keys, test entry and mouse control. At the end of each game, the players can print a certificate outlining the skills they

Youth Literacies Conference 2005

The second Youth Literacies Conference is currently being planned for 4 November 2005 in the Apex Hotel in Dundee. The conference is aimed at practitioners from the youth sector and adult literacies staff and will provide a valuable opportunity to share practice.

It will include a choice of six workshops and building on the success of the marketplace last year, will provide even more opportunities to explore a wide range of effective practices from across Scotland. The Youth Literacies Film will be shown at the event and an opportunity to place your orders will be available.

For more information contact Sheila Doogan at 0141 567 3135.

Dyslexia Handbook for Adult Literacies in Scotland

Communities Scotland with Dyslexia Scotland has produced a guide to dyslexia for those involved in adult literacies in Scotland.

For more details:

contact Don Mackie at Communities Scotland, E-mail don.mackie@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk

ICT and Literacies Network

Learning Connections have set up an ICT and Literacies network for organisations who currently use ICT with learners, or would like to know more about the benefits. Activity in the network included face-to-face meetings and discussion opportunities via an online forum.

Please contact Peter Lanigan at Learning Connections if you would like to join

e-mail peter.lanigan@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk

Support 4 Learning

This is a gateway site, offering a range of links to online support materials for working with adults in developing their literacy and numeracy skills.

Website: www.support4learning.org.uk

International Literacy Day Conference 8th September 2005 President/Thistle Suites, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

The theme of the conference will be a 'Celebration of Adult Literacies' and an important part of the day will be a display of the wealth and range of everyday literacies programmes run by local literacies partnerships.

For more information please see the Learning Connections Website: www.lc.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

In March this year the Falkirk Adult Literacies Team launched "**Your Newsletter**", a monthly newsletter for tutors and tutor assistants.

Reason:

To post news and announcements, stimulate communication, publish and share examples of good practice, promote new innovations and partnership activities and introduce 'guest' contributions by partners and other agencies.

For more information please contact:

James Tate, e-mail james.tate@falkirk.gov.uk

Learning Connections

Learning Connections is part of Communities Scotland Regeneration division. It is made up of two linked teams: adult literacies and community learning and development.

The adult literacies team supports providers implementing the recommendations in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland Report 2001.

Their activities include:

- supporting local partners
- research
- sharing practice
- encouraging new approaches
- improving quality
- developing training opportunities
- networking
- raising awareness
- working with national and local organisations

You can find out more about their work by subscribing to their free e-newsletter

e-mail: learningconnections@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk

Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)

A possible source of funding for I.T. training for volunteers and community activists

ILA Scotland is a scheme that will help individuals pay for learning they want to do.

ILA Scotland is a way for people to get up to £200 a year towards the cost of learning something new. Individuals have to be over 18 years of age, live in Scotland and earn £15,000 or less per year or be on benefit to qualify for up to £200 each year towards the cost of certain approved courses. The money is not a loan—so they won't have to pay it back.

It can be used to help pay for a course from a huge range of exciting learning opportunities all over Scotland and with a wide range of learning providers—from learning centres, local colleges, universities to private training companies.

ILA have recently announced that very soon those earning over £15,000 will be eligible for £100 towards the cost of various basic IT and computing qualifications.

For information on the scheme visit the ILA Scotland website www.ilascotland.org.uk or phone the ILA Scotland helpline 0808 100 1090 for advice about what learning is available.