



The newsletter of the Falkirk Area Network

LINKS TO LITERACIES



Funding News

Learning Connections Adult Numeracy Resource Grant

As part of their strategy to encourage the development of adult numeracy provision Learning Connections is offering grants of up to £500 to enable organisations to buy resources for adult numeracy.

These grants are intended for organisations which are working on numeracy with adult literacies learners.

They will also consider joint applications from more than one organisation, for example, a literacies partnership. They expect to award around 40—50 grants.

They are keen that resources encourage tutors to develop a variety of approaches and that learners are able to work on real life uses of numeracy.



As well as paper-based resources and software, organisations may want to buy concrete educational numeracy materials, games involving numeracy, clocks and measuring equipment.

**For an application form or more information please contact Karen Geekie at Learning Connections,
E-mail:
Karen.geekie@communitiescotland.
gsi.gov.uk**

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

The date of the next meeting is:

Thursday, 8th December 2005
1.30pm (Tea/Coffee/Mince Pies)
2.00pm (Meeting)

@ Linked Work & Training Offices



Teaching Qualification: Adult Literacies (TQAL)

Learning Connections are completing final discussions on a contract to develop and deliver a pilot (TQAL) qualification. The TQAL is at SCQF level 8/9 and will be a work-based qualification available to tutors from all over Scotland. The pilot is aimed at adult literacies tutors and is planned to begin in September 2006.

For further information please contact Moira Hamilton on 01224 332974



Please visit the new Linked Work and Training Trust web-site where you will find up-to-date information on the Links to Literacies Project:

www.lwttc.org.uk



Your Link Workers are:-

Pauline Mercer
pmercer@lwttc.org.uk
Isobel Brown
ibrown@lwttc.org.uk

Linked Work & Training Trust
Suite 14
Willow House
Newhouse Business Park
Grangemouth
FK3 8LL
Tel: 01324 489666
Fax: 01324 483444
www.lwttc.org.uk

More News More News

Links to Literacies—The Development of a Compact between the Voluntary Sector and local Adult Literacies Partnerships

The Links to Literacies project aims to develop a Compact Agreement between Adult Literacies Partnerships and the Voluntary Sector organisations in the pilot areas.

In consultation with the Link to Literacies Steering Group Members, Links to Literacies organised a half day seminar (invitation only) in Stirling on the 17th November 2005 to let attendees find out more about the Compact between the Scottish Executive and Voluntary Sector and to explore the possibilities of adopting a similar approach to develop a Compact between adult literacies partnerships and voluntary sector organisations involved in the project.

There will be an update on the seminar at the next Links to Literacies Falkirk Area network meeting on the 8th December or you can contact Jacqueline McBeath, Project Co-ordinator, Links to Literacies on 0131 553 7992

Report on the second Youth Literacies Conference, Youth Literacies Practice in Scotland sharing the vision

The conference, held in Dundee on the 4th November, was attended by 123 participants from a wide range of organisations spanning youth work and adult literacies.

Felicity McLelland, in her opening remarks, commented on the increase in youth literacies posts around Scotland and Sheila Doogan announced that next year she will be carrying out an audit in youth literacies provision.

The Big Plus for Young People DVD was launched. There will soon be an accompanying pack of resources to support work with young people using the DVD. To obtain copies of the DVD please contact www.thebigplus.com or e-mail Learning Connects: learningconnections@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk

A conference report will published early next year. Please contact Sheila Doogan; Sheila.doogan@communitiesscotland.gsi.gov.uk for further details on the conference, to join the Youth Literacies Network or to receive a copy of the report.

Community of Practice in Adult Literacies

Learning Connections has established a national collaborative project with the Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU) to deliver the 'Community of Practice in Adult Literacies' project.

The community of practice is an online community which provides peer group support for staff working with Adult Literacies as well as supporting continuing professional development and sharing good practice.

The project will develop and put into practice a communications strategy for practitioners to help share experience effectively. They will also be encouraged to exploit the resources of the Community of Practice by identifying and sharing examples of their own practice, leading to improvement in learning experience of adult literacies learners.

The first stage is the launch of a members only information and discussion website, Communities Practice in Adult Literacies. If you want to register, please contact Jessica McKinlay or Laura Crichton on 01786 892000.

Events/Useful Info

Success Factors in Informal Learning 14 December, London

This event is aimed at practitioners, managers, researchers and policy makers. It will explore the ways that literacy, language and numeracy work can be used to engage with and motivate young adults. The findings of a research project, 'Success factors in informal learning: young adults' experiences of literacy, language and numeracy, will be presented. Delegates will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, and to network.

Workshops and discussion sessions will highlight examples of effective and innovative practice in the provision of literacy, language and numeracy learning for young adults.

Contact: Young Adults Learning Partnership (YALP)

Tel: 0116 204 2833

A selection of author event audio recordings from the 2004 and 2005 Edinburgh Book Festivals are now available free on the Festival website, including Andrew Marr, Salman Rushdie and Margaret Atwood. Children's authors include Michael Morpurgo, J K Rowling and Jacqueline Wilson.

www.edbookfest.co.uk/readings/index.html

World Book Day

The World Book Day website highlights events and resources developed for World Book Day, which takes place on Thursday 2nd March 2006. Of particular interest to adult literacies is the Quick Read initiative.

www.worldbookday.com

E-government—Information Literacy

The Scottish Parliament has an e-petitions service as a means for members of the public to use the internet to petition Parliament. An electronic petition has been initiated to gather support for the inclusion of 'information literacy' within the new curriculum frameworks that emerge from the 'A Curriculum for Excellence' renewal process.

www.learningservices.gcal.ac.uk/ils/petition.html

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework Training Support

Learning Connections (Communities Scotland) and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) are planning a series of roadshows between September 2005 and March 2006. The purpose of the roadshows is to support practitioners with the principles, practice and accreditation elements of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework.

If you would like to attend a roadshow in your area please contact Amanda Gray e-mail: amanda.gray@sqa.org.uk
Roadshows will be organised according to demand.

Free Community Leadership Training Edinburgh and Stirling

As part of Learning Link Scotland's Lead to Change—Change to Lead project, they are offering a set of free training events aimed at practitioners, volunteers and community activists in voluntary adult learning organisations. 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.

Training Session:	Edinburgh	Stirling
Quality Systems	12/1/06	25/1/06

For further information, or to book a place at one of the sessions, please contact Gavin Crosby at Learning Link Scotland on 0131 553 7992

Websites

Learndirect Scotland—www.learndirectscotland.com
National Literacy Trust—www.literacytrust.org.uk
Learning Link Scotland—www.learninglinkscotland.org.uk
Learning Connections—www.lc.communitiesscotland.org.uk
Volunteer Development Scotland—www.vds.org.uk
Youthlink Scotland—www.youthlink.co.uk

Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS) Revealed— the 20 best ways to ask for volunteers



Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS) has unveiled its 20 ‘Top Tips for Asking’ to help organisations approach prospective volunteers more effectively.

The Top Tips have developed by the VDS Volunteering 100 Group, as a response to research carried out by VDS earlier this year.

The Volunteering 100 is a group of volunteer involving organisations that assist VDS with some of its research enquiries and help to interpret research findings so that they can be applied to volunteers management practice.

Four fundamental areas are highlighted as critical when targeting new volunteers—word of mouth, using a variety of different tools and mediums to communicate with people, using positive images and key messages and having the ability to offer people flexible volunteering opportunities. There are a number of tips in each category:

- Word of mouth is perhaps the most obvious, simplest and effective way for organizations to promote volunteering. It is imperative to get out into the community, speak to people face-to-face and approach different groups of people, from different backgrounds.
- Organisations can also communicate with the public through a number of creative mechanisms, which can be used to reach different audiences. These include websites, leaflets, CDs and DVDs.
- It is also important for organizations to carefully consider the images and messages they are using to portray themselves to the public via adverts, campaigns, printed materials or in media materials. These should be positive, informative and, above all, clear.
- Finally, in these fast-paced times when people have so many demands place upon them, a certain level of flexibility of volunteering opportunity and time commitment required is necessary. This will encourage people to feel that they are able to volunteer without it impacting too heavily upon their free time.

For further information and to receive the 20 Top Tips in full and a summary of the research findings please phone 01786 479593, email vds@vds.org.uk or look at the website www.vds.org.uk