

The newsletter of the Falkirk Area Network

LINKS TO LITERACIES



Inaugural Meeting

The first meeting of the Falkirk Area network "Links to Literacies" meeting took place on Wednesday, 8th December 2004 at the Linked Work & Training Trust Offices in Grangemouth. Jacqueline McBeath of Learning Link Scotland gave a presentation explaining the aims, objectives and benefits of the project.

What is Links to Literacies?

Links to Literacies is a project which aims to increase collaboration between local Adult Literacies Partnerships and the voluntary sector, thus increasing the effectiveness of adult literacies services, and ultimately the number of literacies learners. It is one of the Literacies Pathfinder projects funded by Learning Connections (Communities Scotland). The project is a partnership involving Learning Link Scotland, Careers Scotland, CVS Network,

volunteer Development Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Council Adult Literacies Partnership.

Why should our organisation Participate?

As a voluntary organisation, you are concerned with the needs of your clients. Research has shown that there is a greater need for literacies provision among such groups as young people with chaotic lifestyles, ethnic minorities, those with disabilities or health problems, homeless people, unemployed adults, people with drug or alcohol problems, etc. If you are working with such a client group in many cases their needs will include literacy and numeracy development.

By being part of the Links to Literacies network, you will be kept up-to-date with local provision, especially the provision

that might be most helpful to your clients. You will also be able to have a voice on the local Adult Literacy Partnership, through your Link Worker. Thus you can ensure that provision really meets the needs of your clients.

As well as this you will have the prospect of receiving support, training, resources and development opportunities all of which might help you further improve the services you are delivering to your clients.

The date of the next meeting is:

Thursday, 10th March 2005
1.30pm (Tea/Coffee) 2.00pm
(Meeting)
@ Linked Work & Training Offices

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Resources



Books can be obtained through the project and please contact your link worker for a list of resources.



Workers Educational Association

“ I would recommend a WEA course to anyone who wants to learn.....it has given me so much confidence when writing”.

WEA workplace learner, July 04

The Workers' Educational Association is the largest, national, voluntary sector provider of adult education in the UK. For over 100 years, the WEA has been active in communities and workplaces to ensure all adults have access to organised learning that can develop intellectual understanding and social or collective responsibility, whatever their starting point.

In the Falkirk area, WEA Scotland has the responsibility for promoting, and delivering, adult literacies learning in public, private and voluntary sector workplaces. Workplace literacies are the reading, writing, number, computing and verbal communication skills, knowledge and understanding that underpin so many of the jobs we do. 1 in 5 workers in Scotland may be struggling with the reading, writing, number skills they need to progress with confidence in their job or voluntary role and/or take up further learning.

The WEA Workplace Learning Tutor Organiser can offer a range of literacies learning opportunities, support and information, including:

- Awareness raising sessions for those who would like to find out more about the benefits of supporting their colleagues & volunteers through workplace literacies learning.
- Information and advice on how to make sure your organisation's documentation and publicity is user friendly and inclusive.
- Starting Points is a small group course that focuses on brushing up communication skills through choosing and researching a group project. Learners have the option of gaining SQA accreditation in Communication at Intermediate 1/ Access 3.
- Short, tailored courses and workshops can focus on particular workplace literacies needs or issues, such as reports, letter writing, filling in forms, producing effective publicity.

- WEA will work with you to develop the most appropriate learning options to meet the needs of your organisation and the individuals within it.

For more information, please contact the WEA's Workplace Learning Tutor Organiser:

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9b East Bridge Street, Falkirk FK1 1YB
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For more information about the WEA's community programme of activities, including creative writing, oral history and family history, please contact the Area Tutor Organiser:

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Conference

“Sharing the Literacies Vision”

1 March 2005—Highland Hotel, Stirling

This conference will bring together two Learning Link Scotland projects: Links to Literacies, which focuses on building networks and relationships concerning adult literacies; and Energise, which develops skills for effective community engagement and involvement in the processes surrounding Community Planning.

Sharing the Literacies vision will enable those in the voluntary and statutory sectors to come together to continue to develop the skills they need to provide high quality services in the literacies field, and to learn more about working effectively and appropriately with others, whether in meetings, networks or partnerships, or in the community.

There is no charge for attending this conference and for further information please contact:

*Learning Link Scotland, Suite 6, 2 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6JA
Tel: 0131 553 7992*

E-mail: info@learninglinkscotland.org.uk

*Further information on the Conference programme can be found on the Learning Link Scotland website,
www.learninglinkscotland.org.uk*