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# Literacy Matters

## The Highland Adult Literacies Newsletter

This is the first issue of a regular newsletter about current developments in the Adult Literacies field in general and about what is happening locally in Highland. We hope you will find it useful.

### Scottish Executive Initiative

As most people will know, the Scottish Executive has allocated a substantial amount of money to all councils in Scotland to use to offer additional basic literacy tuition for any adults whose literacy skills fall below Level 3 of the SQA standard. At present, a wide variety of organisations are involved in projects that offer some basic literacy provision and it is hoped that the new injection of money will enable both extension of current provision and the piloting of new ways of delivery.

An Adult Literacies Action Plan for Highland has been drawn up over the last year by a sub-group of the Highland Community Learning Strategy Partnership. This acknowledges the importance of adequate literacy skills for everyone and sets out to make basic literacy provision in this area both more accessible and available. The aim is both to increase present delivery where need is apparent and to investigate new ways of delivery appropriate to the need and situation of potential learners.

The remit is vast. An estimated one person in five has very low levels of literacy and a further 30% do not have the reading and writing skills necessary to function effectively. This has

implications, not only for employment prospects, but also for individual social lives and the community as a whole.

The progression of the targets and aims, as set out in the Action Plan, is being managed by a working sub group of the Community Learning Strategy Partnership assisted by Adult Literacies Co-ordinator, Mary Rhind and Administrative Assistant, Chris McLintock.



The Adult Literacies Office is situated in the Library Support Building and the address and telephone numbers and e-mail contacts can be found below left.

The plan is twofold. Firstly to increase basic literacy provision in general and for identified priority groups in particular. Secondly, to provide training for providers, and for those who are, or could be, involved in spotting and referring potential literacy learners.

We aim to use this newsletter to keep interested parties in touch with developments and, as the project progresses, to include examples of best practice so that as much useful information as possible can be shared. Please get in touch if there are particular topics you would like us to include.

# Funding for Literacy Providers

## How to Apply for a Grant

The good news is that there is now funding available for providers to extend existing basic literacy provision or to try new provision. The funding cannot be used merely to continue existing provision.

Funding (as available) will be allocated to schemes and projects that fulfil the following criteria:

1. basic literacy provision is an integral part of the project
2. the literacy element is aimed at one or more of the priority groups as set out in the Action Plan
3. the project or activity contributes to implementing the Highland Adult Literacies Action Plan and will help to achieve its objectives by the end of March 2004
4. there is an identified need for the project or activity.

If applications for funding exceed the funding available, projects will be

assessed and allocated funding according to the following additional criteria:

1. the number of beneficiaries and the cost effectiveness per head (taking into account the added costs of provision in remote and rural areas)
2. partnership working where more than one organisation are working together that gives added value to a project through a combining of resources.

## Deadlines for Funding

The deadlines for grants for the current year are:

Round 1:	11 October 2002
Round 2:	11 December 2002

Application Forms and Guidelines for Funding can be obtained from Highland Adult Literacies as detailed overleaf.



We would like to spread the information about funding and developments in the adult literacies field as widely as possible. If you know of any person or organisation who you think would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please let us know or ask them to get in touch. If you have people to whom you could distribute this newsletter we will be happy to send you as many copies as required. Again, please get in touch.

## Training

We are hoping to run various training sessions for providers on a regular basis, to cover issues relevant to adult literacies provision. Details about the first training event are below and we hope to have a few more arranged by the next newsletter. If there are any areas of training you would like us to cover, please get in touch and we will see what can be done.

### NEW ADULT LITERACIES

**Training Session – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002 – 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm**

**Dalneigh Suite, Highland Council Training & Development, Dochfour Drive, Inverness IV3 5ED**

This session will be run by Liz Beevers, the National Adult Literacies Co-ordinator with the WEA. The course will take the form of two presentations followed by discussion.

#### **The Scottish Approach – Making use of Complex Capabilities**

Using skills, knowledge and understanding to develop literacies

#### **Individual Learning Plans – Pain or Gain?**

What is the point of them? Making them work!

It would be useful if delegates could bring along an example of the information, if any, they receive about students at present.

Numbers will be limited and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Ideally, you will save time if you contact us by phone or e-mail if you are interested. However if you are contacting by e-mail, your place at the training will not be assured until you receive confirmation back from us.