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Literacy Matters

Partners in Practice Conference

On Monday 8th November we held a conference at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness which was attended by over 60 representatives from many organisations from across Highland involved in adult learning.



Delegates had the chance to hear an inspirational speech on 'Developing Creativity at the Heart of

Literacies Learning' by Professor Bart McGettrick of Glasgow University.

There was also a choice of ten workshops, five morning and five afternoon, presented by organisations who had received Adult Literacies funding and which covered a wide variety of literacies provision. There were also four short presentations, about other projects, which were attended by all delegates.

The event was filmed by Communities Scotland and CD-ROMs should be available with the conference report which we hope to have issued before Christmas. If you were unable to attend the conference but would like to receive a copy of the report, please let us know.

Highland Council Quality Awards

Congratulations to a team from Adult Basic Education, led by Julie Simmons, which was shortlisted for the Highland Council's Quality Awards Scheme in the category 'Improving Quality of Life'.

Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for applications for Adult Literacies Funding are:



Monday 6th December
Friday 25th February
Friday 27th May

Decisions will be made about a fortnight later and successful applicants informed as soon as possible after that.

Application forms are available both in hard copy and electronic format from the Adult Literacies Office.

Grundtvig Prague

Mary Rhind the Adult Literacies Co-ordinator is being sponsored by the British Council to attend a Partners Contact Seminar



in Prague, from 18th to 21st November, with the aim of setting up a Grundtvig project for learners. The aim of this Seminar is to allow practitioners to meet partners in other countries in Europe and link up where they find they are doing similar activities. The title of this Seminar is 'Social Society in respect of the enlargement of the European Union'.

The projects that will be decided upon at this Seminar will be funded by Grundtvig. Outcomes to be expected are the development of models of good practice and the development of teaching/learning materials. Among the benefits will be those for learners such as increased self-confidence and self esteem, increased motivation to learn, improved personal skills, and expanded horizons. We will provide more information about the project in a future newsletter.

CAVSS

Renfrewshire Literacies Partnership is currently establishing a Scotland-wide CAVSS Network. Renfrewshire is well-placed to support the implementation of CAVSS which was devised and implemented in Australia by Susan Bates, prior to her taking up the position Adult Literacies Coordinator for Renfrewshire Council.

The network is open to anyone who would like to find out more about CAVSS, is interested in implementing the model, or is currently delivering CAVSS support. The intention is that the network will provide support to all organisations utilising the model, alongside opportunities to share and explore good practice.

The network will meet approximately four times a year and the first meeting will be held on **Monday 6th December from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm at Randolph Hall, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow, University Avenue, G12 8QQ.**

This meeting will be a consultation exercise, to identify the interests and needs of network members. This will be followed by a Conference in February/March 2005, during which the CAVSS materials and resources will be distributed.

For more information, please contact Highland Adult Literacies or Sue Bates at Buddies for Learning Renfrewshire on **0141 889 8864.**

ABE News

ITALL Courses

New ITALL Courses are planned to start on Wednesday 24th November in Auchtertyre and on Monday 29th November in Dingwall

In the New Year further courses are planned for Caithness in January and for Wester Ross in February.

For further details, please contact the relevant co-ordinator listed below.

Caithness	
<i>Libby Cook</i>	01955~605423
Ross & Cromarty	
<i>Norma Christie</i>	01349~864579
Skye & Lochalsh	
<i>Peter Mackenzie</i>	01478~611959

Training Courses



These sessions are free and open to anyone who is interested. To book your place, please telephone or Email Chris McLintock at the Highland Adult Literacies Office.

WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER - 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

AbilityNet

A demonstration of the hardware and software available to assist learners with physical and learning disabilities.

Presented by Sue Clarke, AbilityNet Scotland

Location: Ross County Football Club, Dingwall

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER - 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Using Digital Cameras with Literacies Learners

The workshop focuses on how we can use digital cameras in literacies programmes. It will provide the technical knowledge of how to operate the cameras and edit photographs and embed the practical use of the technology in activities that can be used with literacies learners.

Presented by Mary Rhind, Highland Adult Literacies

Location: Ross County Football Club, Dingwall

THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER - 9.45 am to 1.30 pm

Working with Gypsy/Travellers

An awareness raising session which will include real-life case studies focussing on education issues and also dealing with equality and inclusion.

Presented by Jim Holden, Karen MacMaster and Michelle Lloyd

Location: Averon Leisure Centre, High Street, Alness

TUESDAY 25th JANUARY - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Working with the Samaritans

A workshop to discuss and promote the idea of effective communication skills. Participants will consider the position and feelings of themselves and others, particularly within potentially difficult or awkward situations.

We will look at how best to use Listening and Questioning skills to help people to engage effectively with one another and to assist them to communicate in the workplace or within their general life.

Presented by the Samaritans' External Training Team

Location: Committee Room 1, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

Lunch and refreshments will be provided on all courses