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Literacy Matters

Adult Literacies Funding Awards

7 Successful Bids

Calman Trust will continue to offer and develop their existing Dingwall based service of literacy support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They also intend to provide a similar service in Inverness. The project will run from January to December 2005. Award £33,866

Following the success of its previous project, **Laig Local Learning Centre Association** will continue to provide core skills courses in ICT, communication and numeracy in a group setting within local learning centres in Sutherland. The project will run from January 2005 to March 2006.

Award £27,175

TAG Highland aim to develop and deliver a specialised package of adult literacy courses and materials aimed at current and former users of mental health services living in Caithness. A major goal of the project is to develop employability skills. The project will run from January 2005 to January 2006.

Award £22,841

Working Without Walls has been awarded grants for two projects. The first aims to promote and facilitate literacy learning for adults with complex learning abilities, centred around day to day tasks and activities in community living. In partnership with ABE, they will also deliver a training package to support workers to enable them to develop the skills to deliver future literacy learning to those they support. The project will run from January 2005 to January 2006.

Award £19,939

The second project will provide basic numeracy courses in Inverness and a 'Know your Town' course in Nairn. The project will run from January to April 2005.

Award £3,792

Ross County Football Club



Based upon 'Reading the Game', an integrated literacy programme used by Edinburgh City Council, this pilot project will offer 2 groups of young adults (ABE

learners and ESOL learners) the opportunity to improve their skills both in literacy and football. The project will run from January to April 2005. Award £2,988

Following the success of the programme last session, **Inverness College** will provide further courses for native speakers and Gaelic learners who wish to develop their reading and writing skills in Gaelic. The project will run from January 2005 to May 2005.

Award £2,050

Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for applications for Adult Literacies Funding are:



Friday 25th February
Friday 25th May
Wednesday 17th August

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

An updated application form will be issued in January and is available in both hard copy and electronic formats. We would be grateful if all applicants for funding would use this new form.

Grundtvig Prague

By Mary Rhind

I applied to attend the Grundtvig Contact Seminar in Prague, this November, with a view to establishing projects entitled "Social Society in respect of the enlargement of the EU". My application to attend this was accepted and the British Council agreed to fund my expenses.

In advance of the seminar, each delegate had been asked to identify three areas in which they would like to consider projects that would benefit from running jointly with several European partners. I submitted three of the literacies projects we have running in Highland, all of which (co-incidentally) involve young people.

The seminar was open to all SOCRATES participating countries. In the event, at Prague, 19 countries were represented. This included 51 delegates from the respective countries and 10 people from Socrates National Agencies.

There are various types of Grundtvig projects that can be applied for. The seminar was concentrating particularly on Grundtvig 2 projects which are smaller scale projects totally funded by Grundtvig. There was also a chance to find out about Grundtvig 1 potential which is more to do with training and needs supporting funding from partners. Grundtvig 1 projects are normally preceded by a Grundtvig 2 project.

The seminar was opened by the SOCRATES National Agency in the Czech Republic and there were various welcome speeches including one from Ms Klara Bezdekova from the Ministry of Education. A Plenary session then looked at "Enlargement, Social Society and Lifelong Learning".

Following this there was an introduction to the various types of programmes that are run by SOCRATES in the field of education, concentrating on what

would be involved in a Grundtvig 1 project. The next session explained what was involved in a Grundtvig 2 project.

We were next shown an example of good Grundtvig 2 practice in a project called "European Competence Network for Seniors" which has been running at the Czech Technical University in Prague. This has been looking at ways to get more "senior citizens" computer literate.



There was then an opportunity to display what we each individually do in our respective countries and see and hear what everyone else does and meet with the other delegates. Many of the projects that emerged at the very end of the seminar actually had their beginnings at this session. The UK was represented by each of the UK countries ie one each from Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The second day began with a session on "Good Practice when Preparing a Project Proposal" by Mr Prabir Ganguly from the EURO Service Group, Ltd. There were then two sessions on actual Good Practice. The first, a Grundtvig 2 project entitled "Soft skills' development – special approach in young job seekers' training" by Ms Miluse Juroskova, from Business Link, Ltd. This session was concluded with an example of good practice with a Grundtvig 1 project, "Adding Support Skills for European Teachers" by Ms Cariline Kovtun

from *Step by Step* in the Czech Republic.

Following these presentations the process of identifying projects and partners began in earnest. In workshops, ideas for projects were generated and these were then collated into general possibilities.

At subsequent sessions delegates discussed with other interested in a similar area and eventually clear projects began to emerge. I have become involved in a project looking at peer tutoring among young people and learning different ways in which this might be done from each other. Potential partners at this stage are Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Denmark, Spain, and France – although some could drop out if they go back to their country and fail to find support. Three partners is the minimum requirement for a viable project.

The Project I have become involved in is being co-ordinated by the Danish representative. It will involve three meetings a year over two years to plan the project and carry it out. If approval is given next March, one of the meetings, probably next November, will be held in Highland. The other meetings will be held in the other partner countries and there will be opportunity for tutors and learners to travel to them and meet the other participants.

Obviously it will not be confirmed whether this project is approved for funding until next March but I have high hopes as it seems a good project and will be beneficial not only for the group in Highland who become actively involved but for other groups of young people in our area.

The remainder of the seminar was spent in threshing out some of the finer detail and email discussion continues. At a final session each group presented their proposed projects.

The Contact Seminar was concluded with a walking tour of Prague (in the snow) which was very interesting.

Highland Council Quality Awards

By Julie Simmons

In 2004, for the first time, Adult Literacies was short listed for a Highland Council Quality Award in the category of "Improving Quality of Life". The submission for this

throughout Highland. Each judge was also given a portfolio which explained the background to Adult Literacies work in Highland, highlighted some of the exciting projects taking place, and, most importantly of all, related learners' stories to illustrate just how much their lives had changed as a result of their participation in literacy learning.

"This has made a world of difference to me. It has changed my life. Before I was a nervous wreck and just couldn't mix with people. Now I take part in life!"

"I'm less afraid to read words aloud and not too afraid to make the odd mistake."

"It's really, really great. I enjoy going on the computer. It's helping me a lot. I'm learning to spell better - I'm really challenging myself."

"I thought that my tutor was brilliant. She really put me at ease and we could talk about anything. I really learnt a lot and ABE has helped me settle in at college."

Encouraged by achievement of their goals, these learners are well on their way to becoming "Lifelong Learners". The team's thanks go to them, and to the Partners who also supported the submission.

* * *

If you wish to find out more about Adult Literacies work, we are running a fast-track ITALL course in February (details on page 4). And if you wish to become an ABE volunteer tutor, please phone your local area Co-ordinator to find out when the next training course takes place.

| | |
|--|--------------|
|  Adult Basic Education 01463 251277 | |
| Caithness | |
| <i>Libby Cook</i> | 01955~605423 |
| Inverness | |
| <i>Jill Crawshaw</i> | 01463~710013 |
| Ross & Cromarty | |
| <i>Norma Christie</i> | 01349~864579 |
| Lochaber | |
| <i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i> 01397~707371 | |
| Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn | |
| <i>Isabel Duncan</i> | 01479~811689 |
| Sutherland | |
| <i>Alison Dunbar</i> | 01408~641360 |
| <i>Barbara Watson</i> | 01549~402050 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | |
| <i>Peter Mackenzie</i> | 01478~611959 |



annual award was made by the Adult Basic Education Service, which cited Highland Adult Literacies and Partner Organisations as co-participants in their work.

Adult Literacies has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Its place on the political agenda as an issue of national importance, and the Big Plus campaign have made people more aware than ever of Literacies issues. In Highland successful Partnership projects have meant that the number of Adult Literacy learners has increased significantly.

After submitting the initial application for the award, members of the short listed candidates' teams were asked to give a presentation to a panel of judges. Julie Simmons, Adult Literacies Strategy Officer, and Norma Christie, ABE Co-ordinator for Ross-shire, used a Power Point presentation to give the panel an overview of the work undertaken by ABE and its Partners

The short listed teams were invited to attend the award ceremony in Fort William on Tuesday 9th November 2004; Julie and Norma were joined by Mary Rhind, Adult Literacies Co-ordinator, and Ann Marie Donoghue, ABE Co-ordinator for Lochaber at the event. Although not the winning entry this year, (Ross and Cromarty Healthways were named as the winners), the short listing ensured that the Adult Literacies profile was raised and the importance of this work recognised.

Improving Quality of Life

The most rewarding aspect of taking part in the Quality Awards was the response from learners when asked what their literacy learning journey has meant to them. Literacy learning does change people's lives in providing increased opportunities through the improvement of their skills and their personal confidence. Here is a selection of some of the quotes:

Celebration of Learning Event

Wednesday 26th January

Following the success of last year's event, we will be holding another Celebration of Learning on 26th January 2005 which will take place at Ross County Football Club, Dingwall. There will be an exciting range of activities and a chance to meet with other learners from all over Highland. A buffet lunch will be provided.

Learners' Awards Nominations

There will be a Learners' Award Ceremony and awards will be

presented by a celebrity. If you wish to nominate a learner for an award, please call us for a nomination form. The closing date for return of forms is Thursday 20th January.

Successful applications may also be forwarded to the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership to be considered for their national award scheme.

We would like to invite as many learners and tutors as possible plus anyone else with an interest in Community Learning. If you, or any of your learners, would like to attend, please let us know so we can advise the caterers of the numbers.

Tutors' Conference

Saturday 12th March

We will be holding a Tutors' Conference on 12th March at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness. A talk by a keynote speaker will be followed by a variety of interesting workshops and a chance to see some exciting new resources. The Drumossie will be providing a buffet lunch. If you wish to book a place, please give us a call.

Resources

from Learning Connections

On Wednesday 24th November a team from AbilityNet Scotland provided an interesting and informative training session on how to use both specially adapted and mainstream computer equipment to assist learners with physical and with learning disabilities.



Learning Connections has also provided all Literacies Partnerships with a selection of adaptive resources available for borrowing by all members of the partnership.

On 3rd December, Mary Rhind presented an enjoyable training session on Using Digital Cameras with Literacies Learners and we have also been given two digital cameras available for use with literacies learners.

If you would like a complete list of the resources, or if you would like to arrange a visit to look at them yourself, please give us a call.

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.

TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY
10.00 am – 1.00 pm followed by lunch

Working with 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 general life.

Presented by the Samaritans' External Training Team

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

If your organisation has planned a any relevant training that you wish us to publicise, please get in touch with the Adult Literacies Office

FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY and FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
10.00 am – 3.30 pm

Fast Track ITALL Course

A 2-day fast track, non-accredited course to inform partners and practitioners about what is involved in the Initial Training in Adult Literacies Learning. The course may also be of interest to experienced tutors who trained with ABE before ITALL was introduced.

Presented by Isabel Duncan and Norman Ross, Adult Basic Education

Location: Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness

THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
11.00 am until 1.00 pm followed by lunch

How to Provide 'On the Spot' Literacies Intervention

Presenting ways in which practitioners can intervene with useful tips for improving literacy skills. The session will look at short activities and strategies which can be employed to assist clients who demonstrate general writing difficulties and more specific spelling problems.

Presented by Jill Crawshaw, Adult Basic Education Co-ordinator, Inverness

Location: Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness