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# Literacy Matters

## Adult Literacies Funding Awards

### 5 Successful Bids

**Adult Basic Education** has been awarded £132,000 to enable it to maintain the increased hours of the Area Co-ordinators for the next year and also to recruit 4 new part-time staff – a Resource Room Assistant and an ESOL tutor for Inverness and Literacy Support Workers for Easter Ross and Wester Ross.

Adult Literacies funding has allowed the service to expand considerably in the last year. ABE has been able to train an additional 100 new literacies tutors and the number of learners who have been helped has increased by 53%. ABE Co-ordinators have also been able to support local literacies projects and have worked in partnership with many different organisations.

**Adult Basic Education/Scottish Prison Service** has been awarded £30,000 to continue to employ the Prison Literacies Liaison Officer, who is dedicated to working with prisoners with low literacy levels and their families, for a further year.

As well as undertaking work within the prison, the officer organises the continuation of learning after exit. He is also liaising with departments delivering courses in the prison, other agencies concerned with prisoner welfare and the growing number of Prison Literacies Liaison Officers throughout Scotland. In this way, a network of support is being established which it is hoped will prevent re-offending and give ex-offenders the opportunity and confidence to continue to develop their literacy skills and improve their chances of gaining employment.

The **Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £31,082 to continue to work of the Workplace Literacy Co-ordinator for a further year. Now that the Workplace Literacy project has been established, ongoing attempts will be made to target employers in all business sectors and offer suitable literacies provision for their staff.

Following the success of the first Vista Series, **Sandstone Press** has been awarded £3,500 to help towards the cost of publishing their second series of books for emergent readers. The books have already been commissioned and



written and they are 'Blood Red Roses' by Lin Anderson, 'Gato' by Margaret Elphinstone and 'These Times, This Place' selected journalism by Muriel Gray.

**Eden Court Theatre** has been awarded £1,494 to provide a further series of Adult Literacies workshops based on exploring a range of theatre topics. This project will be based at the Isobel Rhind Centre in Invergordon and is aimed at the clients of the Centre.

## Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for applications for Adult Literacies Funding are:



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

An updated application form was issued this January and is available in both hard copy and electronic formats. To be considered for funding, applicants must now use this new form.

# Scottish Executive

*New funding until 2008*

Following a recent spending review, the Scottish Executive is allocating new funding for addressing the problem of low literacy and numeracy in Scotland. The money will be paid through local authorities to Community Learning Strategy Partnerships. The allocation to Highland for the 3 years 2005-2008 will be £1,178,000.



## ABE News

Congratulations to both ABE and the Basil Plus Network

who each received a £500 award from Learning Connections for purchasing ESOL resources. With just 40 awards being made throughout Scotland, we are pleased that two were allocated to Highland.

Goodbye to Alison Dunbar, Co-ordinator for Sutherland who has left ABE after 8 years of service and to Peter Mackenzie, Co-ordinator for Skye and Lochalsh who joined the service in November 2003. We wish Alison and Peter good luck for the future.

For anyone interested in becoming an ABE tutor, there are new ITALL training courses starting in April in the following areas:

Inverness                      Wester Ross  
Aviemore                        Lochaber

If you would like to join one of these courses, please contact the relevant co-ordinator.

<b>Adult Basic Education</b> <b>01463 251277</b>	
<b>Caithness</b>	
<i>Libby Cook</i>	01955~605423
<b>Inverness</b>	
<i>Jill Crawshaw</i>	01463~710013
<b>Ross &amp; Cromarty</b>	
<i>Norma Christie</i>	01349~864579
<b>Lochaber</b>	
<i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i> 01397~707371	
<b>Badenoch, Strathspey &amp; Nairn</b>	
<i>Isabel Duncan</i>	01479~811689
<b>Sutherland</b>	
<i>Barbara Watson</i>	01549~402050
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b>	
<i>To be appointed</i>	01478~614064

# Getting Together

*Tutors' Conference 12<sup>th</sup> March*

The Tutors' Conference held on 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, attended by both ABE



tutors and delegates from a range of other organisations, was a great success. A highly original and inspiring keynote speech on education and football was given by Neil Macintosh of Ross County.



This was followed by a choice of workshops. Don Mackie and Karen Geekie from Learning Connections provided workshops on Dyslexia and Resources. John Batty from Eden Court provided a workshop on integrating literacy into drama and Julie Simmons and Alan Crombie provided a workshop on Kar2ouche, a computer programme that enables learners to create their own animated stories.

Those who attended commented on the relaxed atmosphere of the day and said that they found the event very informative and interesting. As well as enjoying the speaker and the workshops, they welcomed the opportunity to meet with other tutors and share their knowledge and experiences.

## Training Courses



*This session is free and open to anyone*

*who is interested To book your place, please telephone or Email Chris McLintock at the Highland Adult Literacies Office.*

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

**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**10.30 am until 12.30 pm followed by lunch**

### **Mind Mapping**

A session about Mind Mapping and its role in Adult Literacies work, using computer software with clients.

Starting with a look at what Mind Mapping is, and how it can be used, the next stage will be to look at some of the ways it can be employed when working with clients. Finally, you will have time to try out the software on computers, and see how you can apply it. The emphasis will be on fun!

**Presented by John Nethercott, Literacy/IT Co-ordinator, Kingussie BaSIL +**

**Location: Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness**