



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Literacy Matters

English on the Airwaves



Cuillin FM 106.2 or 102.7

The project involving Highland Opportunity and Cuillin FM, which aims to broadcast programmes for ESOL learners in the Skye & Lochalsh area, is now underway. The content of the radio shows is being developed, with the first show now recorded. There's a tight timetable of recording over the next few weeks to have all shows recorded and ready for CD production. The layout for the workbooks has been agreed and material developed.

All learning materials and recordings should be ready for distribution the week beginning 7th July 2008. The first show will be aired on Cuillin FM on 106.2 or 102.7 on Thursday 10th July at 4 pm and repeated on Saturday 12th July at 3.30 pm.

Marketing materials are almost complete and first approaches have been made to local business and libraries to raise awareness of the project and to identify people interested in learning English through this medium. Contact details of those interested are being taken so workbooks and CDs to accompany the radio series can be forwarded when they are available.

Our biggest challenge is going to be reaching the people this type of ESOL delivery is meant for - those who work shifts and find it difficult to attend classes; those living in rural areas who have difficulty in accessing transport.

We have a planned marketing campaign (posters, leaflets, beer mats, advertorial in the West Highland Free Press and regular advertising/trailers on Cuillin FM). We have the support of local libraries who will be signposting interested parties to us as well as taking details of those who would like to receive a workbook/CD to accompany the radio series.

We have enrolled the assistance of Alasdair MacRae, Springboard Scotland, to highlight the radio programmes to their staff and again taking details of employees who would like to learn English through Isle of Skye Language School on Cuillin FM.

Please let as many people know about the project as possible. Feedback on the programmes would be useful – you can also listen through the Cuillin FM website – www.cuillinform.co.uk

We expect to reach at least 100 beneficiaries; 65 for the first 6 shows and an additional 35 to target with our second tranche of shows, following the evaluation.

For more information, contact me on 01478 612841 email caroline.forsyth@hient.co.uk, Joey Graham on 01478 614 064 joey.graham@highland.gov.uk, or Mary Mackenzie – Skye Language Centre on 01478 612 600 macmary@skyelanguagecentre.co.uk

*Caroline Forsyth
Development Manager, HIE*

Literacies – with Care

Following the feasibility study, Sustainable Literacies and the Care Sector (L. Wilde 2006), Lead Scotland was funded by the Highland Adult Literacies



Partnership (HALP) to develop a project to explore a model to build sustainability into Literacies provision for the Highland area, focussing on collaborative work with the Social Care sector. Literacies – with Care was delivered in 2007 - 08 by Lead Scotland in partnership with Adult Basic Education (ABE) and the Workers Education Association (WEA).

A Steering Group including Lead Scotland, ABE, WEA, Highland Social Work, Inverness College and Highland Care Forum met regularly to monitor and discuss activity.

During the period of this project an action research project led by Strathclyde University and commissioned by Learning Connections, was also exploring the potential learning support for adults with learning difficulties by engaging with their systems of care and/or support and facilitating ways in which learner, adult literacies tutor and carer could work effectively to establish learning opportunities in the everyday life. (*ELALDS: Effective learning for Adults with Learning Difficulties*)

‘Literacies – with Care’ delivered training and support to

ensure that care and support staff had an awareness of the social practices model of delivery and that literacy could be integrated into existing daily activity, be that in a formal care setting or related to independent living. It did not include the adult literacy tutor as an equal partner, but rather as a collaborative partner providing specific literacy learning independently of the care setting. Nor was the aim to involve care workers as literacy tutors, but rather to identify and strengthen the connections between existing support and the literacy agenda, and facilitate the links for on-going support from agencies providing literacy learning.



Usually literacies Awareness Raising Training (ART) is delivered from a Lifelong Learning perspective, including the social model of learning ie learner-centred. For the purposes of this project, ART was written with a strong emphasis on Social Work strategy and national initiatives. For instance, the document Changing Lives – the Report of the 21st Century Social Work Review (2006) - emphasises the need to find alternative methods of support, putting the lives and aspirations of service users at the centre of services alongside partnership working to meet this aspiration.

There is often difficulty in getting a number of care staff together at the same time due to changes in rotas or changes in

timetable because of various external issues like transport, health issues or bad weather requiring changes in planned activity. Therefore a flexible means of delivering the practical applications was devised as an Open Learning pack. In order to identify any learning needs for staff to feel confident in working with literacies awareness, WEA carried out a Learning Needs Assessment. Staff were able to discuss areas of skill they felt they needed to improve to support clients in their literacy skills, and training for this was subsequently delivered. Meetings were also arranged between Care Staff and ABE staff to consider the best way to maintain support in relation to literacy resources and advice. This also set up the appropriate referral and information system for those prospective learners who choose to access wider literacy learning opportunities

During the training period staff at the Isabel Rhind Centre used the material to support clients developing a Community café in Joss St, Invergordon. This was a very positive acknowledgement of the value and recognition of the training. Clients seemed



pleased with the progress they had made and there have been positive outcomes. One man said that his memory was improving and he enjoyed speaking to people again. Obviously there had been an increase in his confidence and self-esteem.

Another excellent outcome of working with the statutory sector (Social Work) and the voluntary sector (Key Housing) was that some individuals are receiving support from both agencies.

No single agency can have all the skills and expertise required to support clients in both their care and learning. Working together enriches knowledge, raises awareness of challenges and leads to effective solutions more quickly in most situations.

The Steering Group made recommendations to HALP, including:

- This model should be rolled out and developed to suit the needs of disabled learners in a care or supported setting
- The role of co-ordinator/trainer is crucial to maintain the links between the 2 sectors – Care and Learning – and should be pivotal.
- Care Staff have said that a Professional Development Award/SVQ module would be useful both for personal development and to gain the appropriate skills to work with clients with literacy needs. Initial discussions have taken place and this should be continued towards accreditation
- Literacy staff should be trained to understand the implications of collaborative working in a similar way to the Initial ART training for Care Sector staff. This would clarify approaches like Person Centred Planning.

Alice McGregor of NRDC reviewing the ELALD project writes that *'The social perspective (of this way of working) may require us to re-think the way literacy learning is delivered to adults with learning disabilities.'*

Clearly by supporting Literacies – with Care, HALP has already begun to find creative and collaborative solutions to address this area of provision.

Literacies – with Care has had a positive impact on everyone involved in its development and processes. It is hoped that even more prospective learners will gain confidence and personal independence from this collaborative approach which is continuing for 2008 - 09.

For further information about current training sessions, please contact Teresa Johnson on 01463 258820 or email tjohnson@lead.org.uk

Lynda Wilde
Lead Scotland, June 2008

Funding Awards

Literacies Awards

The Meeting Place has been awarded £11,414 to deliver an extensive range of literacy, numeracy and ICT courses to adults with complex learning needs. They also plan to support learners to self access learning opportunities. They will share the work of the project to encourage day centres and support service providers to learn strategies and techniques to support learning with this client group. Based in Culloden, the project runs until December 2008.

Adult Basic Education has been awarded £7,915 to deliver 10 SQA courses in literacy, numeracy and ESOL to soldiers whose education threshold is below Intermediate 1. The aim is for approximately 100 soldiers to gain certification. Based at Fort George, the project runs until March 2009.

Following the success of its pilot Deaf English project, **Highland Council's Deaf Communication Project** has been awarded £688 for a 1:1 Deafblind English course for a learner who is profoundly deaf and has minimal residual vision.

They will document the effectiveness of the work done and the strategies used with deafblind learners in order to accumulate a record of best practice, connecting previous and current work in the field of dual sensory impairment. The project runs until December 2008.

ESOL Awards

Lairg Local Learning Centre Association has been awarded £7,497 to offer ESOL tuition at intermediate level in central and east Sutherland and to assist any providers in north and west Sutherland. They hope to provide progression routes for learners who have mastered basic English literacy skills but require a higher level of English to meet their aspirations which may include higher education, gaining employment to match their qualifications or becoming a British citizen. The project runs until June 2009.

Learning Connection recently commissioned a suite of listening resources with Scottish accents which are available on their ALO Scotland website. Gillian Scott, of **WEA Highland** worked on the project and has since developed 30 ESOL lessons with recordings which use Highland accents. WEA has been awarded £2,570 to have the coursework for these lessons professionally designed and printed and to buy all the necessary stationery to assemble the learning packs.

Funding Deadlines

The closing dates for the next funding rounds for both literacies and ESOL are:



Tuesday 19th August
Tuesday 18 November

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

If you have an idea for a project but you are not sure how to carry it forward, please contact us to discuss it.

Assessment and Measuring

Following the successful Training the Trainers Conference in Stirling around Assessment and Measuring for tutors, it was decided to form a short-life national group to take forward the development of the training into shorter more convenient sessions. People attending at Stirling were invited to join this

group as is anyone who attended the initial training in the three areas involved in this project – Highland, Aberdeen and North Lanarkshire - or any others who would like to get involved. This is expected to take 4 days between July and March. There will then be a roll out of the training and the materials will be available on line for tutors to access.

HALP has been leading on this project with funding from Community Learning and Development Managers Scotland and support from Learning Connections.

If anybody is interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

Easy Reading

The Scottish Government have published a short pamphlet called 'easy reading' which gives hints on how to make your published material more attractive and easy to read. If you would like a copy, please get in touch.

Learner Dictionaries

Learning Connections have given us a quantity of A5 lined indexed notebooks which are available to partners to use as learner dictionaries. If you would like some for your learners, please contact the adult literacies office.



ABE News

ITALL Courses

If you are interested in becoming a literacies tutor, ITALL courses are planned for:

Dingwall July
Tain September

Courses will also run in other areas later in the year. To find out more, please give your local Co-ordinator a ring.

Alternatively, if you are a part of a team which you think would benefit from the 2-day Adult Literacies Awareness Course available, please give Norman Ross a call on 01463 251279.



WEA ESOL Tutor Workshops

The WEA has organised the following ESOL workshops for the summer.

Friday 18 July from 10.00 – 12.00

ESOL Reading Skills. Exploring different reading skills and introducing reading tasks that can be used with learners at different levels.

Tuesday 5 August 10.00 – 12.00

ESOL Writing Skills. The difficulties lower level learners may face with 'free' writing and introducing some writing tasks that can be used with learners at different levels.

Wednesday 20 August 11.00 – 13.00
followed by lunch

'Try it, it works': short ESOL activities demonstrated by various tutors.

Other Locations

In addition, a workshop or series of workshops can be repeated in other locations in Highland on request.

For further details or to book a place at any of the workshops, please call **Gillian Scott, ESOL Development Coordinator, on 07828 101987** email g.scott@weascotland.org.uk

All workshops are **FREE** and will be held at the **Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road Inverness**

Booking of places is essential as teas, coffees and, on occasion, lunches have to be ordered.

Adult Basic Education

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