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Literacy Matters

Funding Awards

Laird Local Learning Centre Association has been awarded £9,029 for the flexible delivery of Intermediate ESOL classes in Central and East Sutherland and to assist with provision in North and West Sutherland. They aim to provide progression routes for learners who have mastered basic English literacy skills but require a higher level of English to meet their aspiration which may include higher education, gaining employment to match their qualifications or becoming a British Citizen. The project runs from August 2009 to July 2010.

The **Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £4,470 for an innovative project to develop a Job Readiness and Training Pack of 14 discrete modules for inward migrants who wish to improve their English language skills relevant to job readiness. They will also create supporting materials and deliver a 14 week pilot course to 10 – 12 learners. It is hoped that the course will enable migrants to move into employment which reflects their qualifications and skills.

They have also been awarded £2,638 to run a pilot of short term, intensive one to one tutoring and guidance to individual learners, selected by other specific service providers, who have an immediate and acute need and who have specific and concrete ESOL related goals. Both these projects run until October 2009.

In addition, they have been awarded £14,522 to extend the ESOL Quality Development Co-ordinator's post until March 2010.

Rosebank Primary School was awarded a further £1,247 to continue its ESOL classes for migrant families until the end of June.

Funding Deadlines

The closing dates for the next funding rounds are:



14th August
16th November



Training Course

Friday 11th September
Mind Mapping

Mindpower, a training organisation in Highland, will run this session on Mind Mapping for Literacies Practitioners.

Mind mapping can be a useful tool for organising information and ideas. What we will be looking for from people attending is feedback after a few weeks, on the different ways in which they have applied mind mapping in literacies work.

The session takes place at the **Beaufort Hotel, Culduthel Road, Inverness** from **09.30 to 16:00** and you must be able to attend the whole day. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

To book your place, please contact the Adult Literacies Office.



Lima Project

Literacies Inspiring Motivation and Achievement

Apex Scotland's LIMA project was set up to support ex-offenders and individuals who have gone through treatment and support for drug or alcohol addiction in the community. Seeing the benefits involved in delivering literacies based programmes, all frontline staff have been trained in ITALL.



Since the project's inception, we have worked closely with Norman Ross, Prison Literacies Liaison Officer and his tutors. And in this time, we have also had a peer mentor trained in ITALL.

Through having the dedicated support from ABE tutors, we are able to focus on reading, writing, numeracy and ICT at our offices. We have a small suite of computers where our learners can access learning bytes through our partnership with Learndirect. This is a fantastic asset to Apex Scotland, as many of our learners do not have any formal qualifications. It is often the first certificate that they have ever received and they are delighted to add it to their CVs. Given that the learning bytes cover a wide variety of subjects, there is always something to choose from.

While trying to make it as enjoyable as possible, we have worked with a group of learners through hidden learning. We go "Geocaching" which involves map reading, using a GPS, ICT, writing, numeracy and all through being outdoors.

Some of our learners may be new to this area and through this learning, they are enabled to appreciate our landscape. Also when "Geocaching", they are able to have an understanding of the various signs and markings while map reading, and can gain knowledge and understand of how to work a GPS and what it is used for. There is the verbal communication aspect to this, as they have to work together through the use of the map and GPS to get to the correct location. Once we have retrieved the "cache", we have to then log our visit in the notebook and safely place everything back in the correct place and hide the "cache" again for future people who use this web based facility.

Last year we successfully completed the West Highland and Great Glen Way, 169 miles from Glasgow to Inverness. This was done in relays of cycling and walking over 5 days. Alongside this, we also had a community challenge to complete in Kinlochleven by putting life back into their neglected car park.

Preparations for this involved a lot of work on food rations, paint and equipment for the task. Also we had to work out timings for collections and drop off for both cyclists and walkers on each of the relays. This at times was challenging, as on

each of the days the distance travelled was different.

Through our community based work, we completed a mountain bike track at Abriachan Forest Trust in late summer last year. Again, this involved our learners actively taking part and working out how long it would take to complete each part of the bike track. It was officially opened by our Chairman and Chief Executive in August 2008.

Our LIMA project had a small community challenge itself this year. We worked in partnership with the Cairngorms Christian Centre on the task. Our learners had to work out what equipment, food rations and paint would be required to complete this. We painted their table tennis room and the outside railings, fences and picnic benches; deep cleaned their carpets and overhauled their overgrown manse gardens. It was successfully finished and handed back to the Centre on Wednesday 1 July.



Recently, Kenny MacAskill, Communities and Justice MSP, made a visit to our office and spoke at length to our learners and presented them with their certificates of achievement.

We continue to work with our learners on giving them what they need to successfully progress onto employment, education or training.

Katrina Beattie, Apex Scotland

SPL Reading Stars

Highland Libraries was given a wonderful opportunity to take part in a new family learning project based in 25 Scottish Libraries in spring 2009.



We were entitled to take part in the project as Inverness Caledonian Thistle was in the Scottish Premier League. This Big Plus project was funded by Learning Connections and was based on the very successful English version. The football clubs nominated a player as a Reading Star who chose their favourite book for adults and children. The 24 titles chosen by players were topped up by a selection of other recommended titles and these collections sent out to participating libraries. The promotional materials for the

project were of a really high standard and included posters and player cards. Kit bags with tee shirts, mini footballs and lots of little extras were provided for each child.

Mark Richardson of ABE and I were not the people who were initially expecting to deliver the sessions and there were quite a few difficulties setting up the project. We finally started at Ardersier in May with an extremely keen bunch who met at the library on Saturday mornings. An excellent project tactics book was provided to give library and adult literacy delivery staff guidance on how to run the sessions. It provided lots of information on how to make the delivery fun and football based. We tried hard to keep the theme going and Mark Richardson used football league tables in one of his sessions and we had refreshments at half time.

Mark Thomson, who writes and performs poetry and is used to running literacy workshops, did an author visit for us. He did a terrific session and had all our adults involved in writing stories even although a few were very reluctant at the beginning. One session was a visit to Border's bookshop in the retail park which

we travelled to in a minibus – just like going to an away match. Adults were given £5 and children £15 to buy books of their own and we all had a great time. Mark Richardson did a couple of really good literacy sessions and he commented that it was great to find the children being the experts and using their immense football knowledge to help their parents. We rattled through our football quiz in record time!



The project is hoping to obtain funding again but obviously with the relegation of Inverness Caledonian Thistle we will be unable to take part in 2010. When Caley Thistle goes back into the SPL then Mark Richardson and I will be able to provide useful background information on the project. Using football as a motivational tool to encourage adults and children to develop their literacy skills and become familiar with libraries is a great idea and this was a well organised and funded project.

I do hope it continues and becomes an established fixture (note the football terminology)! One final session remains when we go to the stadium at the end of July for a tour and to meet Jamie Duff our own Reading Star. All the children will get a certificate and have great memories of a fun day to take away and hopefully an increased interest in reading and improvements in their literacy skills.

Eleanor Somerville,
Senior Librarian

Lead Scotland

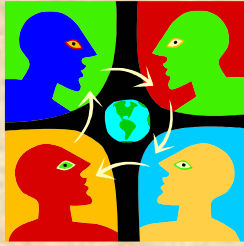
Adaptive Computer Equipment

Lead Scotland is looking for any adaptive computer equipment that may be lying currently unused on shelves. If anyone has any, Lead would be keen to borrow it to give their learners an opportunity to try things out before committing to buying anything.

Volunteers Wanted – Especially Men

Volunteers are wanted to work with Lead Scotland learners in Highland. This is very rewarding work and allows people a chance to learn in their homes. The commitment is about one hour a week or two hours a fortnight but you are welcome to find out more before committing yourself.

Please either contact the HALP office or Teresa Johnson on 01463 258820 or email tjohnson@lead.org.uk.



WEA ESOL Tutor Training



ITALL PDA

An ITALL PDA will start at **Merkinch Community Centre, Inverness** on **Thursday 24th September** from **09.30 to 14.00** and will continue at the same time for seven Thursdays. There are limited spaces available and preference will be given to people already working with learners who have low literacies, in order that the observed practice can be undertaken in a meaningful way within the timescale. The course is open to people from Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch, Strathspey and Ross-shire and it is hoped to attract people from both ABE and other agencies.

For enquiries about the course, please contact Mark Richardson on 01463 710013 or email mark.richardson@highland.gov.uk Mark is also keen to develop a small group to meet up weekly during the course to assess submissions and to monitor and evaluate the course as it progresses.

Learning Campaigns

Scotland's Learning Partnership is promoting two learning campaigns in September this year. **International Adult Learners' Week** runs from **7th - 11th September** and **Family Learning Week** runs from **27th September to 3rd October**.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can link in with these campaigns and to get promotional material, please contact Scotland's Learning Partnership on 0131 220 5567 or the HALP Office.

PDA ITESOL Award

The WEA will be delivering a pilot programme leading to the PDA ITESOL (Professional Development Award: Introduction to Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages). This is a new first-stage national qualification and the awarding body is the SQA. The award is aimed at new ESOL tutors, volunteers and tutor assistants and is at SCQF level 6. The PDA ITESOL consists of two units: Language and Learning in ESOL and Developing ESOL Tutoring Skills. Detailed information about the award can be found in '[PDA in Introduction to Tutoring ESOL at SCQF level 6 Arrangements Document](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/34430.html)' from the SQA website <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/34430.html>.

The programme will be delivered by three experienced ESOL trainers/practitioners, over a period of eleven weeks (on Fridays from 18th September to 4th December 2009). There will be extensive use of discussion and reflection on candidates' own experiences of teaching/learning ESOL.

Places are limited and the closing date for applications is Friday 21st August. Interviews will be carried out to allocate the places.

Stand-alone Workshops

These cover themes aimed at supporting ESOL tutors and also provide opportunities to network. Both sessions are free and take place from 10.00 to 12.00.

Thursday 27th August Grammar and how to deal with it!

This workshop will offer tips on how to deal with difficult grammar questions and which signpost where to find further information about English grammar for ESOL learners.

Tuesday 8th September Selecting and adapting ESOL materials

Focusing on how to choose appropriate teaching materials and how to adapt published materials to suit your learners.

If you are interested in applying for a place on the PDA or you would like to attend a workshop, please contact Gillian Scott at the WEA Office 01463 710577 mobile 07851 413276 or email g.scott@weascotland.org.uk.

The venue for both the PDA and the stand alone workshops will be the **Meeting Room at Highland Homeless Trust, David Whyte House, 57 Church Street, Inverness.**

CoPAL

CoPAL (Communities of Practice – Adult Literacies) is an on-line facility which has been established for Scotland's Literacies Practitioners. It is a shared space to discuss common issues, share resources, learn about effective practice and provide peer

support. The facility also lets practitioners know what's happening on the literacies scene and has links to other useful websites. If you would like to become a member, please email your contact details directly to murray.allan@scotlandscollleges.ac.uk.