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# Literacy Matters

## Adult Literacies Funding Awards

### *Two Successful Bids*

The third round of funding applications was considered by our working group on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003. The following projects were successful.

**Highland Libraries – Ross & Cromarty Area** plan to establish effective links between the Library Service and Adult Basic Education. Training will be provided for both library and ABE staff to enable them to offer appropriate assistance to adult literacies learners using the library. Suitable new library resources will be provided and promoted to support both learning and reading for pleasure. The project will run from March 2003 until March 2004. Award £16,460



**Adult Basic Education** will introduce the *Rickter Scale*, a new, non-paper based, diagnostic assessment aid designed to help co-ordinators and tutors assess and evaluate learners' needs. Initially developed for guidance work; it has been piloted in Dumfries in relation to lifelong learning. ABE will develop the system specifically for

Adult Literacy which will be particularly helpful to those learners who find paper based methods intimidating. There is a possibility that this could have a national impact if other regions decide to adopt this system. The project will run from March to September 2003. Award £2,710

The next deadline for funding applications is:

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003

Further dates will be set for later in the year.

## A New Research Fund

Communities Scotland is supporting a new scheme called Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF). This will provide money for voluntary groups, charities, community based projects, educational and other research groups to help with training, payments to community members and expenses for carrying out a piece of research in the community. If your research idea is approved they can also supply a research mentor who will help you to draw up your proposal.

This could be very useful for funding research to gauge the need and approach methods for Adult Literacy programmes. If you are interested, please get in touch with Ralph Throp at Communities Scotland in Inverness on 01463 711272 ext. 2221.

You can find more detail on the Communities Scotland Website at [www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk). (Type SCARF into their "Search" box.)

## Partner Agencies

*Organisations and Agencies involved in Direct Delivery or 'Spotting and Referring'. Adapted from the Highland Adult Literacies Action Plan*

### Alternative Options has a New Futures contract for Skye & Lochalsh - New

Futures is a Scottish Executive funded initiative offering help and support to young unemployed people aged 16 - 34 who are disadvantaged in terms of seeking work. Literacy and numeracy skills' development is included in the programme. **Contact Liff Pedersen, Manager on 01478 612812**

### Training Sessions



**These sessions are free and open to anyone who is interested. To book your place, please telephone or Email the**

**Highland Adult Literacies Office as detailed overleaf.**

**TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> or WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2003 ~ 1.00 – 4.00 pm**  
preceded by lunch

#### BBC Basic Skills Training

An Introduction to BBC Becoming Webwise and BBC Skillswise

*Presented by Catherine Garvie, Learning Link Adviser for Scotland*

*Location ~ Hedgefield Centre  
23 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AN*

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2003**  
10.30 am – 1.00 pm followed by lunch

#### Literacy and ICT

A critical evaluation of ICT materials both on CD Rom and on-line

*Presented by Julie Simmons, Adult Literacy Strategy Officer*

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2003**  
10.30 am – 1.00 pm followed by lunch

#### How People Disguise Low Literacy Levels

*Presented by Frances O'Boyle, former ABE organiser for Grampian*

*Location ~ Beaufort Hotel,  
11 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AG*

**Apex Trust Scotland** is an employment training, guidance and counselling unit for offenders, ex-offenders and young people at risk. It offers awareness courses covering CV preparation, interview techniques, skills and strengths. **Contact Helen Chamier-Tripp, Team Leader, on 01463 717033**

**Careers Scotland**, part of Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise, now has the remit for providing career guidance to clients of all ages, as well as extending lifelong learning in local communities and developing enterprise activities in schools. Clients with literacy and/or numeracy needs will be offered professional guidance, support and referral to learning providers. **National Phone line for enquiries is 0845 8 502 502**

**Highland Council – Adult Basic Education Service** offers one-to-one and small group tuition in literacy, numeracy, ICT skills, English as an additional language (EAL), study support and entrance test coaching. The service is delivered by volunteer tutors, supported by area-based Co-ordinators and a regional Strategy Officer. **Contact Julie Simmons, Adult Literacy Strategy Officer on 01463 251278**

**The Shirlye Project** is a supported employment agency working with those who need support in finding or keeping a job. The project works with any type of support need and any age group. Their training can include the basic literacy and numeracy required for specific job remits. **Contact Don Toonen, Head of Services on 01463 716179**

**TAG** provide support, guidance and a range of pre-vocational training and supported employment opportunities for people who are unemployed and recovering from mental health problems. As well as referrals to ABE, they provide small group work for those who need specific help with literacy and numeracy. **Contact Marion Mackay, Manager on 01463 716853**

**WEA Highland** offers a variety of community based adult learning opportunities, particularly targeting those adults who have experienced some barrier to learning. It is currently involved in providing a range of integrated adult literacies courses throughout Highland. **Contact Hilary Lawson, Tutor Organiser or Moira Anderson, Class Programme Organiser on 01463 710577**

**Lead Scotland** empowers and enables physically disabled adults in Scotland to access education and lifelong learning opportunities. They work in partnership with other agencies to provide appropriate support ie referring to ABE. A computer home loan scheme with adaptive equipment is available to enable those who would not be able to study without ICT support. **Contact Ann Farrell Project Manager on 01479 831529**

**Highland Council – Libraries** with a network of 41 built and 12 mobile libraries support literacy initiatives in a number of ways. They also provide on-line public internet access at all built libraries, an initiative which will facilitate the delivery of learning opportunities. **Contact John Dempster, Senior Librarian on 01463 251254**



**Learning Centres** offer a recognised resource within their community, providing safe, welcoming and supportive learning environments where learners can make guided choices about what, how and when they learn. Within Highland there are 38 learning centres which have achieved learndirect scotland branded status. **Contact George Junor, Learning Centre Development Manager, learndirect scotland on 01463 667329**

**The North Highland College** helps students with their literacy needs, usually on a one-to-one basis, through extended learning support, core skills, drop-in centres, EAL, Jobs-for-All (employment for special needs students) and through additional coaching for students finding their chosen course rather a challenge. **Contact John Sawkins, Section Leader, Languages & Communications on 01847889551**

**Inverness College** offers individual help to mainstream students through extended learning support. It also provides classes for students whose first language is not English. Skills workshops provide literacy, numeracy and IT support on a drop in basis. The college hopes to extend this service to the wider community in the future. **Contact Kate Morrison, Senior Lecturer Communication and Supported Learning on 01463 273241**