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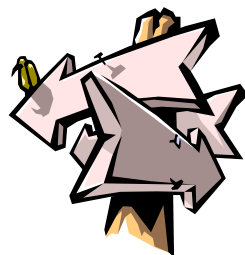
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# Literacy Matters

## Adult Literacies Challenge Fund - Phase II Pathfinders

*Launched by Communities Scotland*

Communities Scotland has just launched its Adult Literacies Challenge Fund for the second phase of Pathfinders. The aim of Pathfinders is to improve the quality of Adult Literacies programmes across Scotland, focusing on either service delivery or literacy as a social (everyday) practice.



The Challenge Fund will provide funding of up to £50,000 per annum over a period of thirty months from September 2003 to March 2006. Higher bids may be considered. Projects will be expected to be up and running by January 2004 at the latest.

It is likely that particular areas where Pathfinders are looked for will be from among the following:

- Sport
- Health
- Homelessness
- Gaelic
- Learning disability
- Housing
- English as a second or additional language
- Disability
- Family literacies
- Young adults
- Specific Learning Difficulty
- ICT
- Financial literacy
- Legal
- Rural areas

There will be a two stage process. Initially they would like a wide range of organisations and partnerships to complete a Note of Interest, giving a brief outline of the suggested Pathfinder. Promising projects, addressing the national priorities from Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland, will be asked to fill in the more detailed Proposal Form. These Pathfinder proposals will then be assessed by a panel which will include representatives from Communities Scotland's partner agencies.

Notes of Interest must be submitted on the appropriate Communities Scotland form. These, plus Guidelines for Applicants for Pathfinders, can be obtained from Highland Adult Literacies. The closing date for receiving Notes of Interest is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

If you have an idea for a Pathfinder that you are not sure about, or if you are not sure how to progress it, please contact Mary Rhind at Highland Adult Literacies who will be happy to discuss its possibilities with you.

## Adult Literacies Funding Awards

*£59,347 Awarded*

The Adult Literacies Working Group met on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May to consider the latest round of funding applications and the following four projects were successful.

**Adult Basic Education/Scottish Prison Service** aim to employ a Literacies Liaison Officer who will be dedicated to working with prisoners with low literacy levels, and their families. As well as undertaking work within the prison, the officer will organise the continuation of learning after exit, through matching with ABE tutors. They will also undertake to provide training and support for these

tutors. They will liaise with departments within the prison which are delivering courses, other agencies concerned with prisoner welfare and the growing number of Prison Liaison Officers throughout Scotland. In this way, a network of support will be established which is hoped will help 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 project will run from May 2003 to March 2004 with the expectation of continuation until 2006. Award £33,504

**The Sandstone Press** aim to commission, promote, produce and distribute short novels (10,000 words approximately), written by established writers of accepted achievement and reputation, for use by adults with low literacy skills. The books will be similar to the very successful and critically acclaimed Open Door series produced in Ireland, but they will have a particularly Scottish emphasis.

The project will run from June to October 2003 with marketing to continue beyond. Award £13,790

**Highland Libraries – Reader Development** – This project seeks to establish a web site for Reader Development for adults, with a particular focus on adults with low basic literacy skills. The broad aims are to encourage wider reading for pleasure, to encourage readers to share their enthusiasm for books they have enjoyed and to support the development of writing skills by enabling readers to participate in reviewing. The project will run from June to December 2003. Award £6,400

**Highland Libraries – Caithness Area** aim to provide resources, in all appropriate formats, to support literacy and numeracy for adults with a low level of skills. They will provide training for library staff in “spotting and referring” those adults who will benefit most from the project. They seek to establish positive links between Adult Basic Education and the

Library Service in Caithness to the benefit of the community. The project will run from June 2003 to June 2004. Award £5,653

## Funding Deadline

The next deadline for applications for Adult Literacies Funding is:

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Decisions will be made on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and successful applicants informed as soon as possible after that. Further deadlines will be set for later in the year.



## ABE News

*New Co-ordinator for Inverness appointed*

The ABE service has appointed Jill Crawshaw as the new full time Co-ordinator for the Inverness area. Jill, who has had many years’ experience of teaching English as an additional language, took up her post on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The new line up for ABE is detailed below.

ABE has been awarded £96,000 of Adult Literacies funding for the current year to enable them to expand the service by maintaining the increased hours of the Area Co-ordinators.

## 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.**

**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**

**If you have any ideas for future training sessions that you would like us to provide or if you are able to provide training that would be of interest to Adult Literacies practitioners, please contact us at the Highland Adult Literacies Office.**

**TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2003**  
11.00 am – 12.30 pm followed by lunch

### "Prisons Pathfinder" literacies project

The Scottish Prison Service is one of four national "Pathfinder" literacies sites seeking to address poor literacy and numeracy skills within the prisoner population. While the primary objective of the project is to reduce re-offending through enhanced individual skills, the initiative will also address issues of introducing new learning materials, staff training and identification of areas for further research.

*Presented by Jim King, Scottish Prison Service, Literacies Officer*

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

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<b>Inverness</b>	
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<b>Ross &amp; Cromarty</b>	
<i>Norma Christie</i>	
Dingwall	01349~864579
Alness	01349~882150
<b>Caithness</b>	
<i>Libby Cook</i>	
Wick	01995~605423
Thurso	01847~895782
<b>Sutherland</b>	
<i>Alison Dunbar</i>	01408~623900
<b>Lochaber</b>	
<i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i>	01397~705003
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b>	
<i>Liff Pedersen</i>	01478~612812
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>	
<i>Isabel Duncan</i>	01479~811689