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Literacy Matters

Adult Literacies Funding Awards

£33,548 Awarded

The Adult Literacies Working Group met on Friday 4th July to consider the latest round of funding applications and the following four projects were successful.

Skye & Lochalsh Partnership will purchase a resource of materials including texts and software to be shared by all local partners including libraries, learning centres and community learning and leisure to offer choice and support to learners with low literacy skills. This resource will be marketed and evaluated to provide feedback for future development. The partnership will facilitate training sessions for staff working with adult literacy learners in respect of raising awareness, familiarisation with materials, 'spotting and referring' and assessment. The project will run from July 2003 to October 2004. Award £14,334

Global Highland intends to offer additional provision to enable adult learners in Caithness and Sutherland to develop literacy and numeracy skills and to achieve certification where appropriate. Global currently provides literacy tuition under Training for Work and New Deal but this project will be able to extend this provision to learners not eligible for these initiatives. The project will run from August 2003 to February 2004. Award £10,650

Ross & Cromarty – Community Learning will increase access to adult literacies opportunities in disadvantaged communities in East Ross through working with local primary schools. A range of programmes will be developed including ICT and other integrated provision. The project will run from September 2003 to March 2004. Award £5,514

Adult Basic Education will create a website to publicise its work and share good practice. It will provide information for learners and tutors and will have links to other organisations and resources. The project will commence in August 2003. Award £3,050

Funding Deadlines



The next deadlines for applications for Adult Literacies Funding are:

Friday 22nd August
Friday 10th October

Decisions will be made on 2nd September and 28th October and successful applicants informed as soon as possible after that. Further deadlines will be set for later in the year

LEAP Training Day

Learning, Evaluation and Planning

A successful LEAP Training Day, attended by 24 people, was held on Wednesday 18th June. The training covered the basic 5 steps of the LEAP framework with particular regard to our current Literacies Action Plan and with a view to drawing up its successor before December. This new Action Plan will guide our literacies provision in Highland from 2004 – 2006 with the additional allocation of funding from Scottish Executive as the national initiative progresses.

The five steps of LEAP are, briefly, as follows:

1. Decide what needs to change
2. Decide how we will know whether it has changed
3. Decide what we will do to change it
4. Decide how we will know whether we have done what we planned
5. Decide whether we did it.

It looks easy on paper but the next task ahead of the Community Learning Partnership will be to use it to draw our aspirations for literacy provision together, looking carefully at the need and the gaps that still exist, in order to allocate the future funding in the best possible way. There will be opportunities for all those interested to have some input into the new Action Plan. Please get in touch if you would like to be included in this

M-learning



After e-learning, m-learning is the next generation of information technology which can be utilised in the learning process. It will allow learning to take place anytime, anywhere, according to the learner's needs, and in privacy. It extends the ways of distributing learning materials. M-learning is portable as it is delivered through hand-held devices such as palm top computers and mobile phones. It uses a mixture of text and audio to deliver material to learners.

At present, a large scale project funded by the European Union is developing prototype products which will effectively

create new learning environments. The target group is young adults (16 to 24) who have not succeeded in the education system and are not currently in education or training. Many have literacy and numeracy problems. They could be unemployed, underemployed or homeless.

What they have in common is that nearly all will own a mobile phone. The m-learning project is investigating how mobile phones and other mobile devices such as palm computers can engage these young people in learning activities and influence their attitudes towards learning.

At present the Adult Literacies Strategy Officer is negotiating for ABE and partner organisations, including the Princes Trust, to be involved in phase two of trials for the project. This is an extremely exciting development with huge potential for rural areas such as Highland.

ITALL

Introductory Training in Adult Literacies Learning

This course was developed by the National Training Project following the recommendations of the report: Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland (2001).

The training comprises 16 two hour sessions and is intended for tutors new to adult literacy. It aims to enable participants to become effective tutors of adult literacies using a lifelong learning approach.

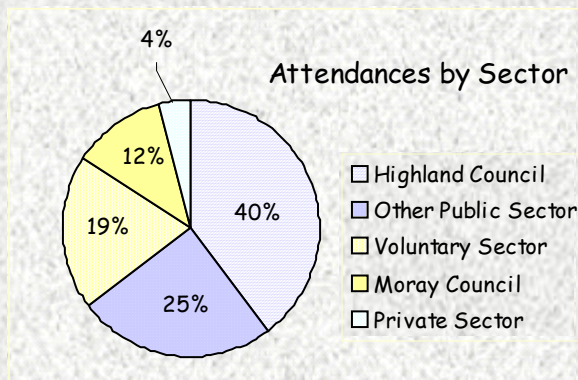
This year within Highland, successful ITALL courses have already been delivered in Inverness and Aness. The next course to take place will commence in Wick on Monday 18th August. Further courses are planned for this autumn in Inverness, Grantown-on-Spey, Nairn, Aness and Lochaber.

If you are interested in enrolling on one of these courses, or if you would like more information, please contact the Adult Basic Education Co-ordinator for the relevant area, listed below.

Adult Basic Education Co-ordinators	
Caithness	
<i>Libby Cook</i>	01995~605423
Inverness	
<i>Jill Crawshaw</i>	01463~710013
Ross & Cromarty	
<i>Norma Christie.....</i>	01349~864579
Lochaber	
<i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i>	01397~705003
Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn	
<i>Isabel Duncan</i>	01479~811689
Sutherland	
<i>Alison Dunbar</i>	01408~623900
Skye & Lochalsh	
<i>To be appointed</i>	

Training Update

Between 1st October 2002 and 10th June 2003, Highland Adult Literacies organised 9 different training courses which were attended by 96 individuals (attending between 1 and 6 courses each) from 20 different organisations.. The diagram below shows these organisations identified by sector.



We are planning to start our next round of training courses in the autumn and have circulated a Training Needs Suggestions form to all learning providers and other interested parties. If you have not received a form and would like one or if you have any ideas for future training sessions that you would like us to provide, please contact us at the Highland Adult Literacies Office. **We would particularly like to hear from you if you are able to provide any training that would be of interest to Adult Literacies practitioners.**

The course could lead to an SQA validated Professional Development Award: Introduction to Adult Literacies Learning – (Stage 1 of the national training framework of qualifications in Adult Literacies)

Anyone who has previously undertaken an ITALL course will have covered much of the ground outlined in the evidence requirements of the accredited course. If they have maintained a portfolio of their learning, they may be in a position to seek accreditation for prior learning or assessment on demand. They will, of course, have to meet the criteria of the organisation providing the accredited course and in some cases this may require some extra work.

Further information can be found on the Communities Scotland website on www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk