

News bulletin - Dec 08

Network News

❖ CPD Events: 15th January 2009 - Aberdeen & 16th January 2009 - Inverness

The Learning Network North in partnership with the VSSSWU and Learning Dynamic invite you to attend one of these learning events, they are aimed at social service managers registered or due to register with the SSSC. It will support you to plan to meet the Post Registration and Training Requirements (PRTL) for yourself and your team.

It will specifically refresh your knowledge of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) concepts and help you plan your leadership approach to developing learning within your team.

Click [here](#) to go to LNN's website to access more information. These events are **free of charge** and places will be allocated on a **first come basis**, to book a place at either of these sessions please forward your contact details including dietary & access requirements to: learningnetworknorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or, contact Jan Foster, Administrator, Learning Network North on 01888 569200

❖ Modern Apprenticeships Consultation

The Consultation will close on January 28th 2009 and feedback from those present at the recent event held in Aberdeen will contribute to the overall exercise. The final consultation event will be in Perth on January 16th. Click [here](#) to access booking information. Click [here](#) to access the consultation documentation and take part on-line.

❖ Early Years Framework

Earlier this month the Framework was jointly published by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

It is during our very earliest years and even pre-birth that a large part of the pattern for our future adult life is set. The early years are therefore a key opportunity to shape a positive future for Scotland. This framework will maximise the opportunities for all our children to get the best start in life, no matter what their background or circumstances. As set out in the joint policy statement published on 18 March this year, the framework is built on the principles of early intervention – a shift from intervening only when a crisis happens to prevention and early intervention. The document is published in 2 parts. The first part sets out the case for action in the early years, along with the vision of giving children the best start in life; ten elements of transformational change; priorities for action; how to move forward with this in the context of the National Performance Framework and Single Outcome Agreements; and a section on realignment of resources.

This framework has been developed with the input of a large number of stakeholders from a variety of sectors. The full reports from each of the four task groups along with the supporting documentation, such as research and good practice examples, are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/earlyyearsframework>

❖ Introduction to Online Communication: 2nd - 13th February 2009

Learning Network North in partnership with RGU are once again delivering our free online course. Available to those in the social services sector it will introduce participants to how the online environment can provide effective learning opportunities, give access to knowledge resources and support enhanced communication. For further information or to request a place visit www.learningnetworks.org.uk/north

❖ PLQ 4

- This is a new qualification likely to be available from Sept 2009. This specialist award will be available to candidates working in the North and the views of employers are being sought.
- The University of Dundee is planning to introduce a SCQF11 PLQ programme in September 2009. The programmes will be situated within the current MSc Applied Professional Studies. This will offer candidates and agencies the opportunity to select a programme of studies that would offer the PLQ and PLQ (SS) with possible progression to a full MSc degree - MSc Applied Professional Studies.
- A Planning Group has been set up to oversee the design and content of the programmes. The group consists of representatives of statutory, voluntary and independent sectors, and the Carers and Users Group (Dundee University). We would welcome views from a wider group of individuals and agencies, who may be interested in the development of the programmes, or who would be considering applying for the programmes. The consultation event is an opportunity for everyone to contribute their views about the design and content, and to influence the process. The views will be taken back by programme staff, who will consider how to incorporate ideas, before finalising the programme detail.
- The University of Dundee consultation with social services employers across the Learning Network areas - **Tayforth, South East** and **North** on the new Masters level Practice Learning qualifications will take place on 12th February 2009, 1pm - 4pm at **Learning Network Tayforth**, Factory Skatepark, Balunie Drive, Dundee. To book a place email Isobel at: iovens@tayforthsssln.co.uk

❖ MHO Award

- In partnership with **Learning Network North** and local authorities in the North of Scotland the Robert Gordon University is now delivering a new Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Officer Award course, which is the first of its kind in Scotland.
- It leads the way for other providers to follow and is the first of three new national courses, the other two of which will begin next year and cover the East and West of Scotland. The Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Officer Award course has been fully validated by RGU and recently received approval from the Scottish Social Services Council.

❖ Voluntary Action Highland (VAH)

- VAH supports Highland-wide voluntary organisations and has a strategic role in the Community Planning process, providing a voice for voluntary organisations. VAH are working closely with statutory organisations to help deliver the Highland Council Single Outcome Agreement and develop a Highland wide Compact.
- VAH has taken on the facilitation of the Highland Voluntary Sector Forum, the agenda of which will be lead by the organisations involved. VAH also offers support and connectivity for the 9 local CVS in the Highland area. VAH is committed to establishing Partnerships with voluntary organisations and statutory agencies at a Highland wide level.
- For more information on the remit and work of VAH contact Development Officer Trina Hastings, at trina.vah@btconnect.com

❖ **Scottish Government : Consultations - Introduction of final dates for social workers and social service workers to achieve registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Deadline Reminder: Wednesday, 31st December 2008**

- This consultation paper proposes the setting of **final** dates for achievement of registration with the SSSC for social workers and social service workers through the introduction of the Regulation of Care (Fitness to Employees for Employment in Care Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2008. The legislation applies to full and part time workers, not to volunteers or workers in seasonal services.
- Click the link [here](#) to participate.

Continuous Learning Framework

The Framework for Continuous Learning in Social Services which supports people who work in social services was launched earlier this month by Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years.

Social service workers play a key role in making life better for Scotland's children, families and adults who need care and support. The Continuous Learning Framework (the Framework) aims to improve the quality of outcomes for people using social services by supporting the people who are delivering these services to be the best they can be. The Framework provides information on what workers need to be able to do their job well now and in the future and on what employers need to do support their employees. It focuses on four key areas:

- the qualifications and training that are needed
- the knowledge, skills, values and understanding required
- personal capabilities which describe the way people manage themselves and their relationships with others
- organisational capabilities which describe the culture and conditions in the workplace that enable social service workers to be the best they can be.

The Framework is for all social service workers and their employers. It is not intended to replace the systems and processes which many organisations already have in place but to enhance their effectiveness. The Framework is not mandatory but can support individuals and organisations to improve approaches to learning and development, career pathways and standards of practice.

It has been developed by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) and a reference pool of people with a broad range of expertise and experience across the social services sector including members of the [Learning Network North](#)

The Scottish Government is funding the SSSC and IRISS to take forward a strategy to support social service employers and workers to use the Framework to promote learning and development in their own organisations.

SSSC and IRISS will now be working with the four **Scottish Social Services Learning Networks** to:

- make sure that social service workers and their employers have the information they need to decide how they could best use the Framework in practice including information about the Framework itself, the support available to them and examples of good practice
- develop a website which will include opportunities for interaction with others who are using the Framework
- develop tools and resources to support the use of the Framework in practice
- set up support networks
- continue to engage with people who use services and their carers, practitioners, senior managers, national organisations etc.
- make links between the Framework and other initiatives in the social service sector
- continuously review the strategy and improve it
- evaluate the impact of the Framework.

Further information about the Framework can be found on the SSSC or IRISS websites:

www.sssc.uk.com

www.iriss.ac.uk/clf

Changing Lives

The latest edition of the Changing Lives newsletter is available to download [here](#).

Social Services Knowledge Management - strategy consultation

The Scottish Government is funding development of a knowledge management strategy and action plan for social services, to underpin the goals of **Changing Lives**. Production of this strategy is being managed jointly by IRISS and NHS Education for Scotland, and builds on the foundations established by Social Services Knowledge Scotland (www.sks.org.uk) the national online knowledge service.

The working vision is to "share knowledge to equip and empower staff and service users, to improve service outcomes." This will be achieved by making information and learning available when and where they are needed, in the format required, and by developing skills and confidence in using information. The aim is that the culture of asking questions, finding, evaluating and sharing information, and putting it into practice becomes an integral part of day to day work throughout the social services.

A series of interviews have been conducted with senior strategic stakeholders in social services during October 2008. This process afforded valuable insights into the existing knowledge and information infrastructure within Social Services in Scotland, together with key strategic needs and issues which the future knowledge management strategy will need to support.

A consultation and consensus building event will be held on 6th February 2009 at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. This will build on the strategic themes identified in the first phase. A discussion paper summarising these issues will be circulated to delegates in advance of the event. The focus on the day will be on identifying and prioritising practical solutions and deliverables that will achieve measurable improvements in service delivery. A questionnaire survey will also be distributed widely in advance of the event, the aim being to build up consensus on key areas of focus through these successive rounds of consultation.

IRISS and NHS Education for Scotland would like to engage with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible, and would welcome your participation. Please input your details on the booking form at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=03dNrjbKvViCNw4_2fMt9wcQ_3d_3d

Could you be a Care Accolades winner in 2009?

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is calling for organisations that provide social services across the country to enter this year's prestigious Care Accolades. They're looking for entries from all social service organisations across the whole range of provision in the voluntary, private and public sectors including community services, care home services, early years, children and young people and older people services. Care Accolades 2009 is a national award ceremony that gives social service organisations in Scotland the chance to get recognition of the vital work they do. The closing date for entries is Friday 20 February 2009.

This year's venue is the Caird Hall, Dundee with the event taking place on Friday 5 June 2009 and hosted by TV presenter Kaye Adams.

The Care Accolades is a joint initiative by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Scottish Government. The 2009 Care Accolades will reward outstanding examples of excellent initiatives and projects within social services.

For further information about the Care Accolades or to request an application pack, please phone 01382 207248/207267 or click the link to the SSSC website www.sssc.uk.com

SIRCC

If you work within residential child care you may be interested in applying for the September 2009, 4 year professional award: BA (Hons) Social Work (Residential Child Care) by Distance Learning, delivered free of course fees by The Robert Gordon University. Advanced entry may be possible based on relevant qualifications and experience. Employer approval required.

For information and application:

email a.aberdein@rgu.ac.uk or tel. 01224 263225 or visit www.rgu.ac.uk/social/SIRCC

STRADA

Following on from the successful completion of the STRADA sub-project, Children at the Centre training for social workers in 2005-2007 additional resources have been provided by the Scottish Government to ensure that there is a network of trainers in Scotland from a range of agencies who can deliver the Children at the Centre programme in their own areas to a multidisciplinary audience.

The overall aim of this training is to provide participants with the knowledge & skills to deliver the updated 2-day Children at the Centre training programme.

For full details visit the STRADA website at www.projectsSTRADA.org

Dementia Services Development Centre

Developing a Person Centred Approach to the Support & Care of People with Dementia

This is a 15 week, online undergraduate module course suitable for those in management roles. Given the increasing numbers of people with dementia living in the community and care homes, care managers need to be aware of changing responses to the changing needs of clients. There is also the need to show evidence of **continuous professional learning**. This university accredited module provides a basic understanding of many aspects for dementia practice. The course has 2 intakes in February and September 2009 beginning with a 2 day introductory session (for the February intake these are scheduled for 3rd & 4th Feb). Further information on the course can be obtained from Lynsey Manson on tel. 01786 467740 or email lynsey.manson@stir.ac.uk



The Network office will be closed from Friday 19th December 2008, reopening on Monday 5th January 2009

We would like to wish you all a joyful festive season and a very happy new year.

Find out more about who we are and what we do by visiting our national and regional website:

<http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/north.php> and don't forget, if you have an event you'd like publicised or an item of news you'd like to share please contact us

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