

PRESS - RELEASE
NORTH'S LEARNING NETWORK WEBSITE SUCCESS

A website developed and managed by Scotland's 4 Learning Networks to support workforce development across Scotland's social care sector has shown a sharp increase in usage, with the monthly average of hits now exceeding 100,000.

The Learning Network website provides information on the work of the Learning Networks and how they support vital learning and development. In addition to containing content which is relevant nationally, the website contains important information on news and developments which are regionally specific. A wide variety of materials can be accessed through the website, including reports on events and consultation, links to learning resources and discussion forums and a popular Events Calendar.

Sandy Riddell, Chair of the North's Learning Network, believes that the website has made a significant impact on emerging developments. "This is an exciting development which can help to reduce the sense of isolation often felt by colleagues across the north east of Scotland and in the Island Authorities. It serves as part of a range of communication methods we use to inform and engage with staff involved in supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community. This facility is clearly making a unique contribution at a time when services are having to respond to increasingly complex demands".

The Learning Network North's homepage also links to an information and communications environment, the Learning Network North Portal, which supports online communities, eLearning and online group work. The Network's eLearning Manager, who is hosted by the Robert Gordon University, has also ran a series of free on-line communication courses enabling participants to learn how to create an online community and moderate online interactions.

For more information on the Network, click on www.learningnetworks.org.uk/north.

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Notes

- 1. Learning Networks support the Scottish social services sector to ensure work based learning and development is comprehensive, efficient and targeted; helps people with registration and post registration requirements of the Scottish Social Services Council and supports practice based opportunities and developments.**
- 2. The North's Network, one of four in Scotland, is a partnership encompassing seven local authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Highland, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles), along with providers of higher, further and vocational training and representatives of the voluntary and private sector.**

- 3. Pictured are (from left to right) Yvonne Leathley, Development Manager with the Network, Grainne Hamilton, the Network's eLearning Manager and Sandy Riddell, Network Chairman.**
- 4. Sandy Riddell is Director of Community Services with the Moray Council – contact, 01343 563530.**