

changing lives



Changing Lives e-Bulletin – December 2007

Welcome

...to an electronic newsletter from the *Changing Lives* team in the Scottish Government, giving an update on what's happening within the programme right now and looking forward to work and events over the next two months.

Chairs of the 5 Change Programmes meeting, 25-26 October 2007

The Chairs of the 5 Changing Lives Change programmes held a two day workshop in Edinburgh on 25 and 26 October 2007 where the opportunity was taken to take stock of work in progress and consider future activity. It was agreed that there were a number of key strategic pieces of work which the 5 Changing Lives groups would deliver in 2008. These will be published early in 2008 and will reflect the need for these groups to focus on national and strategic work to help support local delivery. The Changing Lives agenda requires to be recognised and owned at local level, while the groups' work provides the national dimension and some products to support local development. This relationship very much reflects that being developed between local and national government through the Concordat between COSLA.

Performance Improvement

The Performance Improvement Change Group last met on 10th December, and agreed that SWIA's work to produce guidance for local authorities on self-improvement should be used as the basis for taking forward the group's commitment to producing a Performance Improvement Framework.

A work plan has been agreed which will focus on the delivery of 2 key products: the Performance Improvement Framework and a collection of case studies of performance improvement best practice models. The work of this group has to reflect and support the national outcomes in the Concordat published in November and local authority outcome agreements that will be developing over the next year.

Next Meetings: 29th February, 20th June 2008.

Practice Governance

The Practice Governance Group met on 6 November and discussed the principles and requirements of the role of the Chief Social Work Officer. The requirement that every local authority should have a CSWO is set down in legislation and one of the elements of the 21st Century Review of social work services was a strengthening of the governance and leadership roles of the Chief Social Work Officer. In developing this the group identified a number of key issues that need to be clarified and addressed, including role and function, scope, rights and responsibilities and accountability and reporting arrangements. An initial discussion was held at the National Social Work Services Forum in September and initial discussions have been held with ADSW and SOLACE. An outline for a Practice Governance Framework has been developed and work will continue on populating that.

Next meeting : 29 January 2008

Research & Development

The latest meeting of the steering group took place on 6 December 2008. It discussed the approach to the Research & Development strategy, based on a document which had drawn together the findings from the three working groups.

Service Development

At the November meeting of the Group the 'Personalisation – a shared understanding' paper was signed off with the intention to issue this in the new year with a cover note from the group encouraging people to consider and use as a basis for reflection on practice/local discussion.

The group are considering some project work that might be done around the personalisation agenda and the key elements identified in the shared understanding paper. The group also intend to deliver a number of other products in 2008, including a 'Commissioning for Personalisation' paper, a Personalisation event and publication of Practice case studies and various approaches to personalising services.

Next meeting: 25 February 2008

Leadership and Management

A draft Leadership and Management Framework will be road tested with some of the social work services community, to ensure both its applicability and usefulness, in the first quarter of 2008.

Leading to Deliver - the accredited postgraduate certificate for leadership development - is now reaching its final assessment of the current (5th) cohort. An interim report will be available by March 2008, with the final report to be produced in May 2008. In addition an event is being planned for April 2008 to bring together participants, their line managers, and Chairs of the Change Programmes.

A Leadership Community is being established by past and present participants of Leading to Deliver. A leadership event was organised in partnership with the South East Scotland Learning Network on 22 November 2007. A further event is being planned with the West of Scotland Learning Network for 13 March 2008

The Change Academy project is now well underway with the main residential event taking place January 12 – 15 2008.

Next Meeting: 4 March 2008

Workforce

The Workforce Group has set out its strategic tasks in its work plan and is proposing to have a second development day early in 2008 to review its role and priorities.

The Recruitment and Retention Sub-Group met for the first time in November, chaired by Karen Donaldson of Perth & Kinross Council. The Group is developing its remit and will consider national and local roles in relation to recruitment and retention of staff.

Outwith the Workforce Group, dialogue will be opened up between Scottish Government, the Learning Networks and the SSSC in the coming months to discuss the future role for the Learning Networks. Regular meetings will be held with the Learning Networks, the first of which was at the end of October. The Network will receive continued funding for 2008-09.

Next meeting: Early 2008

Local Practitioner Forums

There are now 13 LPFs up and running and we are engaged with 11 other local areas. A meeting was facilitated on 15 November in Edinburgh to bring those involved in LPFs together. The agenda was set by the LPFs, and the meeting was an opportunity for those involved to discuss issues of interest and to network.

Communications

Distribution of the Changing Lives Autumn/Winter 2007 Newsletter (hard copy) began on 14 December. A copy of the newsletter is available to download on the website www.socialworkscotland.org.uk.

The remit and purpose of the communications network has been agreed and new members have been added in the form of COSLA, BASW, Unison and COT. Next meeting: February 2008.

Look out for a piece on *Changing Lives* within an article on *Getting It Right For Every Child* in the December edition of COSLA's Connections magazine.

Recent Publications

Changing Lives Autumn/Winter 2007 Newsletter:

<http://www.socialworkscotland.org.uk/resources/pub/ChangingLivesNewsletteAutumn&Winter2007Final%20version7December2007.pdf>

Forthcoming Events

- 16 January 2008 - BASW Event – Changing Lives: Focus on Implementation at the Front Line, Royal Terrace Hotel, Edinburgh - *Minister Adam Ingram speaking*
- 22-23 January 2008 – SWIA Stakeholder Conference, Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews - *Minister Adam Ingram speaking (22nd)*
- 23-25 January 2008 – SIESWE PEPE Conference, Edinburgh International Conference Centre - *Minister Adam Ingram speaking*
- 30 January 2008 – National Social Work Services Forum, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
- 27 February 2008 – SWIA/CCPS/Changing Lives Conference 'Reviewing Governance in the Voluntary Social Care Sector in Scotland', Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh - *Minister Adam Ingram speaking*

Next edition – March 2008