



# Scottish Social Services Learning Network West E-bulletin

Website: [www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west.php](http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west.php)



scottish social services  
learning network  
west

## Welcome our November E-bulletin

Welcome to our November E-Bulletin. We aim to keep you informed of Network news, latest events and resources supporting the learning and development of the Social Services Workforce in the West of Scotland.

If you wish to post information on our e-bulletin or website or simply want to register with the Learning Network West, please contact [caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk)

## Local Learning Network News

**Inverclydes' Local Learning Network** is currently recruiting course participants for 'The passport to Social Services Practice in Inverclyde.' This is a two day rolling programme of training and information for new and existing Social Service employees in Inverclyde. This programme is supported by Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Inverclyde Council, The Richmond Fellowship Scotland, The Big Plus, Reid Kerr College and SSLN West; it is free of charge. For the next nine months, the programme will run on the first two working days of every month, please follow this link to access course and venue information.

To find out more please visit the local web page <http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-inverclyde2-lln.php>

**West Dunbartonshires Practitioners Learning Network** is planning a series of meetings, Lectures@Lunch and a conference late May/early June. The Network is always on the look out for new members, come along to the next meeting on 14th January 2009, 10am in Levenvalley Enterprise Centre, to share practice, training opportunities and information about your organisation, Email [caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:caty.mccolgan@westlearn.org.uk) she and your details will be uploaded onto the West Dunbartonshire web page <http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-wdc-lln.php> We look forward to hearing from you.

**Training opportunity!** 'Common Induction for Care' is a new course aimed at both new and more experienced staff employed in the Social Services sector in North and South Lanarkshire; this three day course has been devised by South Lanarkshire College and Lanarkshire's Local Learning Network.

If you have any queries about cost or course content please contact [wilma.mackay@slc.ac.uk](mailto:wilma.mackay@slc.ac.uk). To find out more or to publicise your organisations events please visit [www.learningnetworks.org.uk/lanarkshire.php](http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/lanarkshire.php)

**Ayrshires and Dumfries Local Learning Network** are keen to undertake work around SSSC Registration and some of the challenges facing employers. An event is planned in the early part of next year to support organisations and individuals through the Registration process and also to highlight the Continuous Learning Framework which is being launched next month. The date for the event is the 14<sup>th</sup> January, the venue will be in Dumfries, details tbc next month.

Please visit the website at [www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-ayrdumgal3-lln.php](http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-ayrdumgal3-lln.php)

**Argyll and Butes Local Learning Network** meeting will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 10am in the George Hotel, Inverary. The focus of the meeting will be the Continuous Learning Framework; the document will be hot off the press on 3<sup>rd</sup> December so you will have early access to this exciting tool.... [www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-argyllbute2-lln.php](http://www.learningnetworks.org.uk/west-argyllbute2-lln.php)

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### Special points of interest:

- Meeting new member of staff
- Trainer wanted

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## Opportunities for Post-Registration Study at Master's level Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow Caledonian University offers a number of modules for study at post-registration level, which enables the accumulation of credit towards a Master's degree. All of the modules are located within the MSc Health and Social Care Master's Framework.

Typically, a module involves 3 days attendance at university, continued access to learning materials through 'Blackboard' and the completion of a written assignment.

Module fees are £420 per 15 credit module.

Modules available from January, 2009 are as follows:

- Ethical Decision Making in Social Work (15 credits)
- Leadership for Learning Organisations (15 credits)
- Culture and Behaviour in Teams (15 credits)

[Click here](#) for further information or contact Ian Brodie, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, (0141 331 3163 or [i.j.brodie@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:i.j.brodie@gcal.ac.uk)) or from Julia Harris, Programme Administrator, (0141 331 8142 or [julia.harris@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:julia.harris@gcal.ac.uk))

## Trainer wanted for Pilot Programme "Sex & Relationships Course" held in Partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council and Share Scotland

West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) in conjunction with SHARE Scotland have put together a Sex Relationships Course to be held at Clydebank College, this course is will start on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and will run until June 2010.

This is a pilot project which is designed to meet the needs of adults with complex learning needs. To enable this course to run, WDC Social Work Learning Disability Team, SHARE Scotland and Cornerstone Community Care have given their services free of charge.

The course will be delivered in blocks with

staff from these organisations delivering on a rotational basis. One of the original team is leaving and they are looking for someone to replace them; this input would not be required until April 2009. A time commitment of four hours per week would be expected on a Thursday afternoon. All lesson plans have been written and each class will be delivered with the help of a qualified drama teacher.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this team call Dougie Reid, Regional Coordinator with SHARE Scotland on 0141 848 5068 or email [Dougie.reid@sharescotland.org.uk](mailto:Dougie.reid@sharescotland.org.uk).

## People, Performance, Productivity Reforming Scotland's Public Sector In Association With The Scottish Government Wednesday 28th January 2009 - Hilton Hotel, Glasgow.

People, Performance, Productivity will take a no-holds-barred approach to tackling the issues, changes and challenges brought about by the drive towards increased efficiency, cost savings and constant improvement in business processes, leading to better delivery of customer services across Scotland's public sector.

For further information and to book a place click on link <http://www.pspevents.co.uk/>

[people\\_glasgow\\_2009/](#)

**Early Bird Rate before 28th November:**

**Public & Third Sector** £40+VAT  
thereafter £75+VAT

**Private Sector** £395+VAT  
thereafter £495+VAT.

## Choose Life Training

In December 2002, as part of its aims to improve the overall health of the people of Scotland and achieve greater social justice, the Scottish Government launched 'Choose Life a National Strategy and Action Plan' aimed at addressing the rising rate of suicide in Scotland. The full plan can be found at [www.chooselife.net](http://www.chooselife.net)

Choose Life is a key part of the work of the National Programme to Improve Mental Health and Well-Being and has the ultimate goal of reducing the suicide rate in Scotland by a figure of 20% by 2013. In addition, Commitment 7 of 'Delivering for Mental Health' produced by the Scottish Government in 2006, established key targets for the NHS in suicide Prevention work:

" Key frontline mental health services, primary care and emergency staff will be educated and trained in using suicide prevention assessment tools/suicide prevention training programmes. 50% of target staff will be trained by 2010".

Choose Life in Renfrewshire aims to work in partnership with all our stakeholders to prevent suicide and develop self harm interventions.

They will provide training, signposting and support to enable other services and the community to respond more effectively and safely.

The Choose Life team in Renfrewshire offers the following training in suicide prevention and self harm intervention.

**ASIST:** a 2-day workshop for anyone who wants to feel more confident in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

**SafeTALK:** a half day session aimed at giving participants the skills to recognise that someone may be suicidal and to connect the person to someone with suicide intervention skills.

**STORM:** a suicide prevention training package for frontline workers in health, social and criminal justice services.

**SELF HARM Awareness & Skills :** a one day course aimed at giving participants an understanding of the function of self harm and begin to develop the skills to respond appropriately

**SELF HARM T4T:** a 3-day course that prepares participants to deliver the one

For more information about the above training contact Rosemary Mullan at [Rosemarym@ramh.org](mailto:Rosemarym@ramh.org) or on 0141 847 8900.

## The Mental Welfare Commission

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland is an independent organisation working to safeguard the rights and welfare of everyone with a mental illness, learning disability or other mental disorder.

On this site you can find out more about who they are, what they do and how they can help you. You can also get information, advice and guidance to help make sure people get care and

treatment that is in line with the law and best practice.

The Commission holds numerous public and key stakeholder events each year. Some events are open to the general public, others are targeted to particular groups. Details of future events can be found by clicking on the link:[http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/about\\_us/mwc\\_events.asp](http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/about_us/mwc_events.asp)

## UWS - Enhance Your Career with the Chartered Management Institute Diploma in Public Services Leadership

The Diploma in Public Service Leadership is a vocationally-related qualification aimed at developing professional managers within the public and voluntary sectors.

organisations, the programme aims to build individuals confidence, professionalism and leadership skills, resulting in improved service performance.

Designed in partnership with public sector [Click here](#) for further information.

## Into the Spotlight!, Housing, Home Care and Community Health Services – enabling people to stay at home, Tuesday 2nd December 2008 Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire

This conference will address the ways in which housing, care and health services can work in partnership to enable people with health and care needs to remain in their own home. The drive for more flexible services and increasing quality will impact on future service delivery across each of the sectors, which when coupled with the ageing population provides an even greater challenge.

Key speakers from throughout the sectors will provide opportunities to explore current experiences, future developments and look at how a more integrated approach across the sectors can provide better and more sustainable outcomes. For further information and to book a place click on link. <http://www.scaonline.org/userfiles/file/Integrated%20Care%20Conference%2021208.pdf>

### News/Consultations/Publications/Reports

**Evaluation of Leading to Deliver**—Scottish Government established the Leading to Deliver programme in 2003 in order to develop leadership and management skills for first-line and middle managers working in the social services sector in Scotland. The evaluation sought to inform decisions about the programme's future after five years of operation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239956/0066213.pdf>

**Consultation on final dates for achieving registration with the SSSC**—The Scottish Government is seeking your views on the final dates for social service workers to register with the SSSC. You can view the consultation 'Introduction of final dates for prescribed descriptions of social service workers to achieve registration with the Scottish Social Services Council'. The consultation closes on 31 December 2008. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/10/09104047/1>

**ESOL Report** - This report is the outcome of research work commissioned by the Scottish Social Services Learning Network West. The work was carried out by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) who were commissioned by the Learning Network to 'investigate the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learning needs of migrant workers, and their employers in the Social Care sector in Argyll and Bute and Dumfries and Galloway. This research should identify levels of ESOL provision, examples of effective practice and make recommendations on how needs can be met in 'the future. The research will, where possible, draw on and link to other research in this field.' [Click here](#) to access report.

**Social Work Inspection Agency: Self-Evaluation Guide: for assessing governance in voluntary organisations who provide social care in Scotland** - This guide aims to assist voluntary organisations delivering social care services to self assess and then plan to improve their governance arrangements where needed. It was developed following a review of governance with Turning Point Scotland, at their request. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/244054/0068187.pdf>

**Local Practitioners Starting Pack** -Thinking of starting up a local practitioner forum in your area? Not sure if there is one already or who to contact? Not sure where to start or what to read? Then click on the [Starter Pack](#) for links to guidance on LPFs, useful papers to read and LPF, ADSW and Scottish Government contacts



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## This month meet a member of Ayrshires and Dumfries and Galloway Local Learning Network—Anton Watson Nurse Manager at Castlebeck



**We are always keen to hear from Learning Network members, please contact us and we will feature you in our monthly e-bulletin.**

Hello everyone, I am Anton Watson, and I am Nurse Manager of Trinity House in Lockerbie which is part of the Castlebeck group. Trinity House is a thirteen bedded intermediate unit for residents with a Learning Disability and Associated Challenging Behaviours.

In my spare time I enjoy playing sport such as Football. Squash and Golf, and at present I am also the football coach of a local school and also of the Annandale and Eskdale Disability football team. I also enjoy spending time with my family.

I am currently the Chairperson of the Learning Network Ayrshire/Dumfries and Galloway area. I enjoy being a member as I find it interesting meeting colleagues from different services, networking and sharing information. We all have something to learn and exchange; I find the Network gives me this it also enables me to improve the service I deliver to my residents while at the same time, I can share information with colleagues in this Learning Network area and make a difference.

We are always looking out for new people to come along to our meetings so if you are interested or require further information please contact us.

## Learning Network West welcomes our latest employee Jill MacSporran



Hi Everyone, my name is Jill MacSporran and I have taken up a temp post for 6 months as Practice Learning Development Worker, at the Learning Network West.

I am a qualified Social Worker and Practice Teacher and my role here is to identify and develop practice learning opportunities within the voluntary and independent sectors. I will also be involved in enabling and supporting potential candidates for the Practice Learning Qualifications.

I also work part time at the University of the West of Scotland as Practice Learning Development Officer, so my two roles dovetail nicely together! I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead and meeting new people in our partner agencies.

## Learning Network West, Training Facility, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley

Learning Network West's training facility is available and will try to accommodate your needs where possible. Should you wish to run a one day event or use our premises over a longer period of time, come along and see our facilities. Our premises are located at the Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley.

Our rates are very competitive and include:

Audio/loop systems  
Laptop/projector facilities  
DVD/Video  
Flipcharts  
White boards

Tea/coffee

Our main Training room can comfortably hold up to 35 delegates depending on layout.

We also have 2 break out rooms which can hold 8 to 10 people for small discussions.

Lunches can be arranged at an extra cost.

If you wish to enquiry about prices, dates etc. please contact

[denise.alexander@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:denise.alexander@westlearn.org.uk) or call 0141 848 1500.