

Orkney Learning and Guidance Forum - update from members – April 2010

Malcolm Graves, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service

- CLD action plans. The first two action plans (for North Isles and South Isles) were issued in March. The remaining four action plans (for East Mainland, West Mainland, Stromness and Kirkwall) will be issued by June 2010.
- Orkney CLD Partnership is organising an Evaluation Event looking at the impact of Youth Work, Adult Learning and Community Development in Stromness and the West Mainland on Tuesday, 18 May at the Standing Stones Hotel. All welcome to attend.
- Young Scot National Entitlement Cards have been issued to young people through KGS, Stromness Academy and four junior highs. In the two main secondaries, cards were made available to S4-S6 pupils. In the junior highs all secondary pupils had an opportunity to apply. Individuals in P7 and above can apply for a card through the Council's main reception.
- The 2010 Young Scot Book will include information about local services for young people in Orkney. This booklet should be issued at the end of June or at the start of next term.
- The Orkney Youth Café is now in its fifth month of operation and has successfully attracted a wide group of young people. There are drop in sessions for S3 + above, youth clubs for younger age groups and two sessions for young people with disabilities. It is run by an independent board of directors – chaired by Rev Don Currie. The Youth Café Managers – Laura Swannie and Janette Mackie – can be contacted at youth.cafe@orkney.gov.uk.
- Funding has been secured by Orkney CLD Partnership to continue English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) provision through the Learning Link in 2010/11. The Learning Link worked with 55 ESOL students last year. An increase compared to the previous year, largely due to a new workplace partnership with a local fish processing firm.
- The Autumn programme of Community Learning courses will be enhanced this year with a number of courses arranged with the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership (traditional skills courses etc). The programme will be issued at the end of August.

Edwina Cook, VAO

Adult Befriending Project

Group Befriending Project well underway, meets once a month at Eunson Kloss. Training undertaken by the Coordinator of the Befriending Project with the Blide Trust. The OBT are setting up their own Befriending service within Orkney Blide Trust and requested some input. Some trained volunteers still awaiting Disclosures, which is slowing down the matching up process.

Young Person Befriending Project

Good article in last week's Orcadian about Hannah's project. She is continuing her support for Volunteers and befriendees as well as recruiting new volunteers and planning the next training session.

Youth Development

- Presented MV awards at opening of the Youth Café.
- 9 other MV awards achieved awards in March.
- Drop ins continue at KGS and Stromness Academy.
- Completed 'Days Geen By' Community Placement (Stromness Soc and Voc). Produced the CD and visited the care home to present the CD to the elderly folk.
- Continuing support for volunteers and placements.
- Continuing work within the Orkney Youth Café by regular attendance at sessions and looking at developing an enterprise project.

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Edwina Cook, VAO cont.....

Connect Project

All clients have completed Individual Learning Plans in place and reviews completed and have updated skills scale. They also worked with Fire Brigade, in completing the OADP Calendar which has been completed and quotes are being obtained for printing. Work has continued on the arts project and the week trip/ learning experience to Lagganlia Activity centre will be presented at this next meeting! They have worked with the Blide Trust and 3 First Aid Certificates have been awarded to Connect students. **LATEST NEWS!! One member of Connect has just been awarded the opportunity of going to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi to represent Orkney!! She is VERY excited!**

General Volunteering, Training, Funding and Deveopment

13 new volunteering placements in this last month alone, record numbers of folk coming forward looking for placements. Fraser has launched his Quality Volunteering Award, which is being run with 3 organisations this coming year. They will receive help and support in making their role in the management of volunteers attractive and supportive.

New funding applications have been completed in order to fund extra staff members required by the expanding projects. Watch this space!

A Care in the Community Service Directory is almost complete and there has been a demand for this from all agencies, statutory and third sector – Doctors particularly wanting to know what services are already being supplied within the Community. Launch of this on May 3rd.

Drop In session for community groups has taken place at Dounby. Both the Hope and Stromness have also received Drop Ins this year.

First Aid training has taken off with a vengeance at VAO! 3 courses facilitated with the Red Cross for all community groups. Works well for them and the Community at large! Facilitated training also take place at the College and with the Social Enterprise Academy. Westray and Sanday organisations received training in Committee Skills and a prototype session was delivered to S1 to S4 at Sanday School, which was well received, particularly as it just followed the news that funding for the new youth centre had just been granted. A group of young folk will be on the management committee for this.

Lunch Clubs throughout the county are being supported by VAO at the moment following changes in the funding arrangements and requirements from OIC CSS.

A new Development Trust, has received assistance from VAO in various areas and in particular in a Basic Bookkeeping course. We are finding that at this time of year, financial year end, we get a lot of requests for the independent examination of books as well as Basic Bookkeeping.

We have also been giving a lot of information on funding applications, the type of funds available and the criteria for funding applications. Our help is available for all, but members get regular updates and membership of VAO is only £12.50 per annum.

Digital Switchover has taken over Edwina's life at the moment – anything you need to know – just ask! We will have an Advice Point at VAO on the dates of Switchover, 12th and 26th May and the following days also (13th and 27th). Similar Advice Points in Stromness run by Connect volunteers on the 4 days, 1 in Shapinsay on the 12th, 26th and 27th and one in Stronsay on the 13th from 5 to 7pm. There will be numerous Digital vans, Switchover Help Scheme vans and folk in the Hydro and OTE helping out at that time also.

Joyce Slater and Kay Hume, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) – see attached file: Summary of SDS Operating Plan 2010.11

Lorna Hirst, Orkney College Open Learning Centre

Last week I attended a meeting with members of the Learning Centres Strategy Group and the Learning Centres Operations Group. There were presentations from David Bryan, Social Enterprise Academy - see website for information on residential courses etc. Fiona Hawthorne from North Forum discussed a new pilot programme **Ready steady Go** designed by North Forum to encourage returning learners. Orkney College Learning Centre will pilot it. LEADER funding was also discussed. There is no funding to revive the Learning Centres Operations Group however we hope to improve electronic communications. Janet Kennedy has recently been appointed to look at offering further support for staff development opportunities.

Frazer Campbell, Advocacy Orkney

Tender Writing Course – A very informative and relevant course that gave an insight into what tender writing is all about and should result in improved funding applications. If we obtain more stable funding the people who use our service will benefit.

NHSO Disability Equality Scheme Consultation Feedback – After supporting and co-facilitating workshops at the actual consultation event in September 2009 we were involved in providing feedback to participants. Although not as well attended as the actual consultation event there were sufficient people present to make it worthwhile. The hope is that new support groups will emerge e.g. for people with epilepsy.

Scottish Child Law Centre Training – We have been successful in obtaining £410, from Talisman, to bring trainers up to Orkney for two days to provide 4 different modules over two days. There is a great deal of interest in this training and we remain hopeful that we will be able to attract sufficient extra money to keep the cost to participants to a maximum of £20 per day.

Housing information for minority groups – Advocacy Orkney were invited with our partners to attend a meeting held by Orkney Housing Association Ltd to examine ways in which we can get information to groups that have traditionally been 'hard to hear'. This is a work in progress but goes beyond providing information in community languages, for example, working with people released from prison.