

Orkney Learning and Guidance Forum – update from members – April 2011

Orkney Childcare Partnership – Early Years and Family Support – Sandra Leslie

- Childminders:
Support for childminders in Orkney has resulted in Orkney being almost unique in Scotland in maintaining good numbers of quality childminders. This is very important as childminding is essential in the scattered geography of Orkney, where there is only one daycare nursery.
- Supporting training
Support is provided to train childminders and other early years workers through Orkney College, to help meet the registration requirements of the Scottish Care Commission. This function is met by the Childcare Partnership and ensures adequate training levels are met.
- Special Needs Summer Playscheme.
For the past 5 years, the Childcare Partnership has played a big part in organising the SN Summer Playscheme, and this work has begun again for this year. The Playscheme will run in July.
- Triple P:
We have ongoing Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) training courses, and Bookbug Rhymetime sessions on a regular basis. We now offer Triple P parenting courses for ages 0-12, and teens 12 – 16, as well as Stepping Stones for families with a child with additional support needs, and Enhanced Level 5.
- Starting Well events for parents and for early years practitioners.
Another of our Starting Well events is planned for the end of May – first week of June to coincide with National Family Week, and will be used to disseminate the new Pre-Birth to Three SG Guidance and to showcase our related services. This is a multi-agency series.
- Parenting Articles in the Orcadian.
Continuing roll-out of a series of articles in the newspaper on topics relating to parenting.
- Scottish Government Guidance for Early Years: see attached presentation
The Early Years Framework guidance from the Scottish Government, and the new Pre-Birth to Three guidance, is out now too. These documents both emphasise the importance of Early Years and Early Intervention, starting with support for parents before the birth of the child.

Skills Development Scotland – Joyce Slater

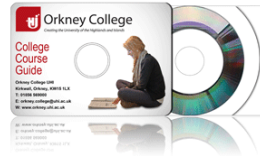
- A report produced biannually for OIC CPP was produced in Dec 2010. This report covers the services we provided in the Orkney Islands Council area, between 1st April 2010 and 31st December 2010. We highlight our delivery of careers information, advice and guidance services (CIAG), employability services and National Training Programmes. These services are designed to assist individuals to enter and sustain employment and to progress within work. The report also provides an update on the characteristics of the More Choices More Chances group as at 31st January 2011.

Our performance reflects the demands of the current labour market. Our efforts to increase employment opportunities across a wide range of sectors requires strong partnership working with the Scottish Government and its agencies, local authorities, employers, training providers and individuals.

This report also includes the School Leaver Destination Report 2009/10 – see attached
- OCPP Partnership Liaison Group meeting 28 March 2011 attended by Malcolm Graves on behalf of OLG. Minutes from 10 September 2010 meeting are available on www.orkneycommunityplanning.org.uk.

Orkney College UHI – Linda Russell

- A 'Right Blether' - OC applied and became a voting centre for a 'Right Blether'. This initiative was set up by Tam Baillie (Commissioner for Scotland's Children and Young People) where he was seeking the views of young people, the results of which will inform the work of his office.
- Radio Orkney broadcasted live from the foyer of Orkney College on Monday 7th through to Friday 11th February, and the College also had an Open Day from 10.00 am through to 6.00 pm on 10th Feb. Both were very successful.
- The Hospitality Dept offered breakfasts/brunches consisting of Orcadian, English and American choices to students/staff and the wider public on Tues 8th, Wed 9th & Thurs 10th of Feb to coincide with the Radio Orkney week
- **Launch of New Prospectus** - Thursday 10 February saw the launch of the new prospectus which is a credit card sized digital prospectus.



- A smaller programme of **evening classes** was offered in January 2011. The uptake of these programmes was much less than the uptake in September. It might be appropriate therefore to offer only one programme of evening classes in 2011-2012.
- COSCA Counselling Skills Course has been delivered again this year after a short break. Positive numbers are undertaking the course.
- A very successful new PDA is Stone Masonary has been delivered with 30 participants undertaking the short course.
- A short course in lip reading course has been delivered, again with positive numbers attending
- Open Learning have been involved with 'union learning' and are delivering a variety of IT courses at a variety of levels to a number of union members paid for by their union.
- Other new short course delivered this year include:-

Dealing with Violence & Aggression
Selection, Use & Inspection of Harness
Reflective Practice - Mary Finn delivered this for CSS
Moving & Handling - Children

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service – Malcolm Graves

- The 2010 Youth Conference was held in November 2010. The keynote speaker was of the Children and Young Peoples Commissioner for Scotland, Tam Baillie. There were series of 4 workshops with the main themes being as follows: Your Community, Your Learning, Your Future and Your Cartoons (a creative and fun workshop with local cartoonist Alex Leonard). Reports on the Council website.
<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/C/orkney-youth-voice.htm>

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service continued

- A Right Blether vote on issues identified by young people in Scotland was held in schools and other centres in the period: 22 Nov – 3 Dec 2010. 899 votes were cast (32.5% of eligible school population) in 10 venues. In Orkney, young people voted for these options:
 - Help us be safe and secure in our home.
 - Help us to create more experiences for us to learn skills for jobs
 - Help us to have places to go that are fun and cheap or free
 - Help everyone to include each other no matter how different we are
- The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections were held during the period 14 – 25 March 2011. Four candidates stood for election. The two successful candidates were Marcus Craigie (Stromness Academy) and Rhuaridh White (KGS). The first sitting of the SYP is in June. The Council has agreed to hold annual Youth Debate in the Chamber.
- The local pages of the Young Scot Book have been updated with more entries than last year. We are hoping that we shall receive our distribution of books in May – in time for P7/S1 transition.
- The Orkney Youth Café has secured funding for another year thanks to OADP and the Orkney LEADER programme. All staff can be contacted at youth.cafe@orkney.gov.uk.
- The Learning Link has secured additional funding to continue to provide ESOL classes in 2011-12.
- The CLD Partnership has received funding from the Scottish Government for training and development of CLD practitioners working in the public and voluntary sectors. 60% of funding has been pooled with other partnerships in the North Alliance to provide sustainable training and development opportunities across the North of Scotland through its two year business plan for 2011-13.
- The Inspection of the Learning Community Surrounding Stromness Academy was published on Tuesday, 19 April 2011.
<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=12123&type=5>

Life Skills Centre – Tina Gilbey

- Life Skills Centres across Scotland have been successful in our bid as a subcontractor for the work programme. What this means to the Orkney centre is that we will give support and guidance to unemployed people to help them gain employment and liaise with local employers to build up a larger portfolio of placement providers.
- Our 50/50 shop is now raising money for the Life Boat and also helping individuals gain confidence and skills by giving them the opportunity to take part in work placements in a secure Retail environment. We currently have a vacancy in our local centre for an Assessor to deliver Modern Apprenticeships in Retail in the work place.
- The Orkney centre has worked with 2 employers in Kirkwall to help young people gain employment and also work towards a Modern Apprenticeship and also gave support to both employers to allow them to benefit from the Employers Recruitment Incentive.

Voluntary Action Orkney – Edwina Cook and Fraser Devine

Adult Befriending Project

- Annual Service Evaluations all complete.
- A match ended with a really positive outcome.
- The project has been training 4 new volunteers.
- The Service held a coffee afternoon at Eunson Kloss with Connect and Alex Leonard. It proved to be very successful and lots of recipes collected. (combined intergenerational project with Connect)
- Linsey & Edwina have organised an evening with "CRUSE". To date 10 volunteers have expressed an interest in attending.

Young Person Befriending Project

- Reviewing matches and potential new matches
- Organising the new matches
- Writing risk assessments
- Writing the new Project newsletter for volunteers

Youth Development

- HMIE Inspection
- Soc and voc wk3: visit to Eventide Project. CD complete and in Library Archive (memory project involving S3 pupils from Stromness Academy, visiting Eventide Club in Stromness)
- MV Certificate presentations at Keelylang and Rendall schools out.
- ROAR 9 event took place at the Youth cafe
- Youth Workers Forum meeting.

Supported Volunteer Project

- A Surgery/info session held at Orkney Blide trust
- Volunteer reviews and assessment (Rickter Scale Reviews)
- New Placements,
 - 6 new placements last month
 - Total of 45 supported volunteers registered on the project.

Connect Project

- The Connect Team has continued with PX2 and with only one section remaining have now nearly completed the programme.
- Work continues with Kay Hume from Careers Scotland on the interview techniques DVD. Orkney Movie Group joined the young people at one of their meetings to give advice on how to go about completing the project.
- Young people have continued with healthy lifestyles by taking part in various sporting activities.
- Young people have begun to train for carrying out the Red Cross walk, 15th May, and the Monumental Walk for CLAN, 18th June.
- RESPECT programme has continued
- The young people have now started the process of producing their recipe book in conjunction with the residents at Eunson Kloss. Alex Leonard, creator of the Giddy limit is involved and will help the young people to produce the illustrations for the recipe book.
- Young people continue with their recycling operations and continue to hope that materials gathered can be used for the creation of a collage with the help of primary schools within the county.
- The young people have started a new project at Blide garden and are again working with David Sneesby.
- The young people have taken turns in staffing the Good As New shop under the supervision of Connect staff.

Voluntary Action Orkney continued

- The young people took part in a sexual health session with WAO.

General Volunteering

- *****STOP PRESS – Homestart Orkney have just been awarded The Quality Volunteering Award (April 2011)
- VAO now on FACEBOOK!! – Follow us! (search for VAO)
- VAO took part in the HMle Inspection (CLD West Mainland) – great feedback – and Connect highlighted as an example of good practise
- FD Went along to a Practise Managers meeting (NHS) at the Orkney Library. Met with 5/6 of the practise managers and talked about
 - Both befriending services
 - General volunteering
 - Care Directory
- Updated the Care Directory (March 2011). I've emailed the group, posted it onto the VAO website (and news) – posted it on VAO Facebook, and emailed OIC and NHS for them to distribute.
- General volunteering – definitely picked up this month.
- Many enquiries about the introduction of the new PVG legislation

Development work

- In partnership with OIC CLD, organising the Annual Community Halls meeting on May 21st in Sandwick.
- Offering advice and information on the new legal format for an organisation, introduced in April 2011.
- Now have 2 trained Independent Examiners for Charity accounts
- Now have 2 trained PQASSO mentors (Practical Quality Assessment Scheme for Small Organisations).
- Charity law training undergone by 2 staff
- 2 staff due to undertake Train the Trainer courses in April/May.
- HMI Inspection completed
- Window display organised in conjunction with the Adult Protection Committee and the Child Protection Committee, which emphasised help available in Orkney, and specifically the training CDRoms that are for private and statutory bodies and also for community and voluntary groups.

Advocacy Orkney – Frazer Campbell

Advocacy Orkney has hosted Care About Rights? Training provided by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The training is aimed at carers of older people or people who may move to residential care at some point in the future. SHRC have already carried out training with care providers but this aspect of the programme is to inform people such as volunteer advocates, carers etc of how the Human Rights Act can be applied, which includes balancing the rights of others. The third and final session will be held on 17th June 2011.

VAO organised awareness training by the Social Enterprise Academy on the subject of Social Accounting and Audit (SAA) and Social Return on Investment (SROI).

SAA – is a framework which allows an organisation to build on existing documentation and reporting and develop a process whereby it can:

- Account for its social, environmental and economic performance and impact
- Report on that performance and impact (proving what it has done)
- Draw up an action plan to improve
- Be accountable to its key stakeholders

SAA is accredited by an independent panel and looks at the whole of the organisation. My understanding is that rather than having separate accounts and an annual report the two are merged to give a better picture of the outcomes of the organisation. More information is available at www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk

Advocacy Orkney continued

SROI – is a method for measuring and communicating a broad concept of value [financial] that incorporates social, environmental and economic impacts. It is used for a specific project or aspect of an organisation's work. It not accredited but the results can be assured by the SROI project that provides feedback on the conclusions the organisation has reached. More information is available at www.sroiproject.org.uk

Orkney Blide Trust - Hannah Cameron.

A clubhouse is a community organised to support individuals living with the effects of mental illness. The focus is on what a person can achieve, their strengths and abilities, and on the independence of the individual rather than on their illness.

We have been granted funding for over a 3 year period which we are very excited about. We think that this will be an excellent opportunity for people in Orkney with a mental health problem that will allow them to gain work experience, address educational needs, gain access to services and meet lots of people in an understanding and supportive environment. I have been employed as the administration, education and employment worker.

The Orkney Clubhouse, which will be named 'Blide Hoose' will aim to promote recovery from mental health problems through meaningful activity and social contact. Members will have the opportunity to participate in the work ordered day and take part in education, training and employment. Members of the clubhouse take shared ownership and responsibility for its success, giving the message that he/she is welcome, wanted, needed and expected each day.

The Clubhouse will be divided into 2 work units that are designed to manage the everyday tasks associated with the operation of the Clubhouse. Members who join the clubhouse, select a unit (or units) according to their interests and work side by side with staff, in a unique partnership that encourages members to contribute in a meaningful way.

The clubhouse will give members the opportunity to experience different kinds of work in a supportive environment. Everything is voluntary and members can do as much or as little as they like.

There will be a **catering, gardening and maintenance unit** where members can get involved in all aspects of catering from cleaning dishes to waiting on and to preparing food for lunch and orders from the snack bar . Members are welcome to get involved in all aspects of maintenance such as recycling, painting and cleaning. The Orkney Blide Trust also have a garden project where members can be involved in various gardening duties such as planting vegetables and flowers.

The administration, education and employment unit is where I will be based. I will co-ordinate and oversee all areas of the administration, employment and education unit. The administration part of the unit takes responsibility for all the work concerning the overall running of the clubhouse. Finance, reception, monthly newsletter, typing and loads of other things will be done here . Members can brush up on existing skills or try the computers for the first time!

As with all work in the clubhouse members do **not** need any prior knowledge of admin work. Experience, confidence and skills are gained by working alongside colleagues at a pace suitable for them.

Orkney Blide Trust continued

The education and employment part of the unit will support people who want to work, study, volunteer or do training. Members and staff are encouraged to explore work and study options and are supported in identifying and undertaking their individual routes towards employment and education. Part of my job will be to ensure that members have access to one to one vocational guidance and support them in developing personal development plans in order to focus their involvement in the Clubhouse in a way that is meaningful to them. I am also looking at offering in house training to members and making links with agencies to come in and talk to and advise members about various options open to them with regards to education and employment. I have already spoken to the learning link who have agreed to come and talk to members and set up some in house training or one to one tutoring depending on the wishes of the members. Another barrier for people with mental health problems is that undergoing education can be sometimes be thwarted when their mental health is particularly bad. I would like to be able to set up some kind of support for people in a situation like this which is why I am very keen to make links with organizations wherever possible.

The clubhouse will also offer a tiered employment programme starting with transitional employment placements and then at the members wishes proceeding through supported to independent employment.

Transitional employment placements are an opportunity for members to work in paid, part-time work in a very supported way. They give people the opportunity to recover confidence and acquire new skills. I will develop close links with local employers to negotiate a job which they would give to the clubhouse. I will then manage the placements. Jobs will be entry level jobs where no additional experience will be required. A member is then selected for the position by the clubhouse community. Myself or another member will then work with the chosen member on the job and train them while they work until the member is confident to do the job sufficiently on their own. Job attendance and performance is guaranteed as either a member or staff member will support and fill in for the clubhouse member if they need to be absent for any reason. Transitional employment placements are short term and last for between 6 and 9 months in order to give other members the opportunity to take part.

Part of my job will also be to liaise with members and agencies such as the job centre and CAB to help members gain access to the welfare benefits to which they are entitled and to identify how those benefits may be affected by paid income.

The second step is **supported employment**, in which the clubhouse would help an interested member obtain their own job. Serving as a resource and support centre to create CV's, develop interview skills, providing personal references, assisting with applications and liaising with prospective employers upon request.

The third step is **Independent employment**. Independent Employment is a program of the Clubhouse through which members, when ready, are broadly helped by the Clubhouse to seek and obtain a job of their own. The Clubhouse then provides ongoing support and encouragement for the members as long as they remain employed and want assistance. There is no on-site support at the place of business for members in Independent Employment; all support takes place at the Clubhouse, or in the community.

As well as the Clubhouse there will also be a **new drop in area** available for people where they can call in for a chat and a coffee in a warm friendly atmosphere and/or take part in the various social activities for the drop in. The clubhouse and drop in will be closely linked where we would hope to encourage drop in members to become clubhouse members too. We will also continue to offer the same services as before including out and about, housing support and befriending.

We hope to have the clubhouse ready by the beginning of June. If you would like more information, can help in any way or know anyone that would be interested in becoming a member please email me at hannah.obt@btinternet.com.

