

### Joyce Slater, Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

- Employer's Recruitment Initiative – A grant of £1000 available to any employer who takes on a young person as an MA who has previously been on Get Ready for Work, has an offending background or who has been in care. This applies to GRfW leavers from the 17<sup>th</sup> of June this year, and they must start their MA within 26 weeks of leaving GRfW. More information and an application pack is available: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/our-services/services-for-employers/engage-in-industry-recognised-training/employer-recruitment-incentive.aspx>
- Flexible Training Opportunities – Workforce development grants of up to £500 per employee episode are available for private sector organisations with 50 or fewer employees, as long as they are based in Scotland. There is a maximum of 10 employees that can be supported in any one organisation, and the grant will cover 50% of the costs of training, with the remainder to be covered by the employer. Statutory training will not be funded. Again, more info and an application form are available on our website: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/flexible-training.aspx>.
- Unpublished figure of 93.9% positive destinations was achieved for the school leavers destination report in October.
- An evening event for people with additional support needs and their parents/carers was held at Orkney College on 28th September. 24 local agencies took part and was seen as an excellent opportunity for networking. Positive feedback from all that attended. To coincide with the event an information booklet was produced this was achieved through excellent co-operation from all local agencies featured.
- Integrated Employment Skills services (IES) rollout. IES was introduced to ensure effective cross referral between Job Centre Plus and Skills Development Scotland – Careers. Although referral in Orkney has always proved to be fairly straight forward, with good links between the 2 organisations, IES has streamlined the process and is working as a 2 way referral process. The initial referral is done by a JCP adviser who identifies someone at their 9<sup>th</sup> week of claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) – this person is then referred to SDS – Careers via IES referral system. The SDS Adviser then completes the form after an individual has been seen and sends the completed paperwork back to the JCP. The process has ensured more referrals coming from the JCP and allows staff to see work which has been done by both parties.
- Group works planned with Employability Orkney, Stromness Academy “Buzz” sessions, Youth Achievement Group at KGS and Job Centre Plus (dates and times to be confirmed)
- Client Intervention Fund has been used towards buying interview trousers for a client and bus travel costs can be reimbursed for clients accessing SDS services.

### Sandra Leslie, Updates of activities either led or supported by the Childcare Partnership

- The Early Years Framework Implementation Action Plan and the Integrated Children's Services Plan have gone to Orkney Health & Care, and also to Policy & Resources Committee at OIC, and been approved. Our thanks to everyone for their contributions and work on these documents.
- Bookbug Sessions: (This is what used to be called Bookstart). Sessions are being held regularly at 3 different venues and times in Kirkwall. Another block of sessions is being delivered in Dounby at Smiddybrae. And the 3 Bookbug practitioners are to attend another training session in Inverness later this month.
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) courses continue to be rolled out.
- The TLC Group for families with a child/ren with Autistic Spectrum Disorder takes place on Thursday afternoons at the Life Centre. This operates as a mini Children's Centre, where an invited group of families have the opportunity to meet, and have access and support from various professionals from different agencies, while a crèche is provided for the children. In this environment it is possible for parents and children and various professionals, to meet in a supportive environment.
- The SEAL Project: this project is led by the Education Service, Pupil Support. The project has been established to explore how a different way of working can better meet the needs of the small number of children and young people who have not been able to benefit fully from the range of local services, including some of those who would previously have been referred for specialist out of Orkney placements. The service will provide community-based, flexible, learning opportunities for a carefully prioritised, limited number of children and young people with complex and high risk needs involving social and emotional difficulties, along with their parents and carers.

- The SEAL Project continued.....  
The service will provide community-based, flexible, learning opportunities for a carefully prioritised, limited number of children and young people with complex and high risk needs involving social and emotional difficulties, along with their parents and carers.

The service will consist of a team of staff who will work collaboratively to create and deliver individualised, highly specific plans that address the individual learning needs, the family/parenting/carer needs and the community interaction needs of the children and young people. These plans will be highly sensitive and responsive to children and young people's changing needs. Building on the children and young people's existing areas of strength, the approaches will include a primary focus on the development of resilience, self-efficacy and increasing parenting/carer capacity.

### **Tina Gilbey, Life Skills Centres (Orkney)**

- The centre has been very busy since April and took part in the Pre-employment programme offered to unemployed people who were looking to gain employment with Tesco. This was very successful with 65% of those attending gaining employment.
- During July our Internet Café run a taste of Orkney month where staff promoted food and drinks made in Orkney or from as much as Orkney grown ingredients. This went down very well and was overseen by one of the Future Job Fund individuals who also came up with the idea. This allowed him to show planning, organising, budgeting, presentation, communication and selling skills and successfully complete his Retail Level 2 Apprenticeship.
- During September we lost the services of a member of staff due to ill health, however in November we have been able to take on a new member of staff (Andee Fraser) to help clients gain employment.
- As a learn-direct centre we have joined with the BBC as a First Click partner. This is a course that allows over 55's to gain basic skills in using a computer. This is free of charge with 3 sessions being run each quarter. The first session took place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November; the 2<sup>nd</sup> is planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> the 8<sup>th</sup> December. The next quarter's dates have not yet been announced. We did email other organisations as any of their members/volunteers are welcome to attend.
- All other programmes that we offer are running well and all staff have been working very closely with employers which have allowed us to increase our list of placement providers, giving employed people (trainees/clients) the opportunity to gain important skills in a working environment.

### **Linda Russell, Orkney College**

- Most Further Education students undertook their induction for 2010/11 courses on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 with Higher Education student induction taking place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. New courses in 2010/11 included the HNC in Professional Cookery and the BA in Fine Art Textiles.
- Course for school pupils also started in August and included a variety of Skills for Work Course for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years from Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School, the School/College Link Course and the Highers in Care and Early Years Care and Education. TOPS classes continued and for the first time some KGS pupils have taken up HNC modules at the College to compliment their school timetable.
- A comprehensive programme of **evening classes** started in September, at both certificated and non-certificated level. Particularly popular ones were Higher English, Vegetable Gardening in Orkney, Make Do and Mend and Traditional Orkney Joinery.
- **Fairer Scotland Fund** – staff in the college put in two bids to the FSF. They were for funding to buy a shed/shop for the College so that horticultural produce can be sold there, and funding to offer a School/College Link Course two. Both were successful.
- **Networking/On-line learning** –plans are ongoing to make HNCs and HNDs available on a networked basis. Eventually it is hoped that more HNCs would be available at Orkney College
- 2009/10 saw negotiations take place between OC and Community Social Services to transfer all SVQs in Health and Social Care from CSS to OC. This was completed and now all staff from CSS requiring to undertake SVQs in Health and Social Care, level 2 and 3 undertake them at OC.

## **Linda Russell, Orkney College cont.....**

- Return to Learn recruited a very positive number of students, who started their course in October. This course is funded via Adult Literacy funding.
- **ECDL Audit** achieved an 'A' in the annual audit for the second year in a row. There were no points for action.
- **The Orkney College Awards Ceremony took place** on Friday 17 September at 2pm.
- There are 2 Young Enterprise Companies running in the College this year. They are the Personal Programme students who are running a Young Enterprise Scotland company called MugMania. Makaracket is the Young Enterprise Team from the Business Studies Department.

## **Edwina Cook and Fraser Devine, VAO**

### **Adult Befriending Service.**

Demand for the 1 to 1 service shows no sign of abating. Group befriending held at Eunson Kloss is now well established, with work commencing on rolling this out over the other care homes in Orkney. Work also to start next year with Intergenerational group Befriending. The project has been successful in applying for LEADER funding, for an additional post, and match funding is currently being sought.

The Project recently held 2 very successful MADD events, in conjunction with Connect and Eunson Kloss.

### **Young Person's Befriending Project.**

The project has recently completed another round of volunteering training. Once matched there will be 11, 1 to 1 matches.

There are also 5 new volunteers waiting for training – which should start in the New Year. As with the Adult Befriending Service, there is still great demand for the service.

### **Supported Volunteering Project.**

Our support worker currently has over 40 volunteers with additional support needs, who are currently volunteering with almost 60 volunteering opportunities. Support tailored to each individual as required. Support needs of the volunteers can be varied, and range from - learning difficulties, physical disabilities, mental health issues to alcohol and or drug misuse.

### **Youth Volunteering**

BC is working very much with the schools around Curriculum for Excellence now, supporting school pupils to find volunteering opportunities as part of their weekly timetable.

ROAR event for October – live music night – well attended at the Youth café. Small Social Enterprise – 'Peedie Prints' had stall at the charities bizarre to sell their merchandise. Laura Leonard is now on maternity leave.

The Youth Workers Forum meets bi-monthly and the aim is to identify and encourage areas for partner working between local organisations. We meet at VAO. The forum enjoys a good turnout, regularly in the high teens, and agenda items are invited from all partners. Represented around the table are;

- VAO
- CLD
- NHS
- KGS
- Stromness Academy
- OADP
- Ydance
- The Youth Café
- Women's Aid
- Young Carers
- Lifeskills
- Careers Scotland
- Girl Guides
- Social work
- ODF
- CYPA
- OACAS
- Active schools
- 16+ learning choices
- Youth Music
- CYPA

Input to the agenda is invited from all partners and co-ordinated by VAO.

## **Edwina Cook and Fraser Devine, VAO cont.....**

The forum works hard to ensure that partner work is achieved, that we get things done together and don't just talk about them. Currently, a subgroup is working together to co-ordinate the Youth Conference set to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The Youth Café is a standing item on the agenda, keeping partners updated and encouraging involvement. The forum also has a constantly updating contact sheet which is available to any interested parties. Finally, the forum mailing list is used by all partners to get information out. For more information or to join the forum, please contact chair [brian.cromarty@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:brian.cromarty@vaorkney.org.uk)

### **Connect Project**

Gardening at The Blide Trust - hours will go to MV awards.

All young people are using their activities as challenges to achieve Youth Achievement Award (bronze)

Young people have been researching photos for MADD with Eunson Kloss, they have also provided recipes to make a high tea for all the people who attend MADD, and they have also sourced all the photos for the THEN & NOW Session.

Young people used King St Hall Kitchen to cook all the baking which was greatly appreciated by residents of Eunson Kloss on 'MADD.'

Edinburgh visit took place 18/10/10 –21/10/10. 5 young people took part on the trip and gained not only new experiences but new skills. All young people gained in confidence, social skills and independent living skills. They enjoyed the visit to Scottish Parliament, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Zoo and Edinburgh Castle.

### **General Volunteering**

Over the last 3 months, VAO has helped 22 general volunteers find suitable volunteering opportunities, though things have slowed down slightly with the run up to Christmas.

FD continues his work with Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practices, and will be working on an arts exhibition to show the work from the arts project held here in May.

- Meeting held of the Third sector Care group – to decide how the group is to be taken forward.
- Delivered 2 PVG training sessions with CRBS in October.
- 2 organisations working towards 'Quality Volunteering' – which is a quality standards award for volunteer involving organisations.
- FD presentation at Age Concern Orkney AGM & Women's Aid Orkney.
- Volunteering Workshop delivered in Hoy for the SFLPS (Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme)

May 2010 -

- The Annual Community Halls and Associations meeting held in the Cromarty Hall, South Ronaldsay.

Partnership arranged event organised by VAO and CLD. 12 halls represented with 14 representatives.

4 information sessions – Deeds and Trustees, Fire Safety Risk Assessments, SCVO Village Halls and Toolkit website Intro., OIC Licensing Board and licences required and one workshop – Village Halls and Social Enterprise.

- meeting arranged for groups interested in community gardens or allotments and 11 organisations attended and 4 organisations hosted a visit by TRELIS –who are the national Scottish charity that supports, promotes, and develops the use of horticulture to improve health, well-being and life opportunities for all.

See <http://www.trellisScotland.org.uk/>

June 2010 –

- the Child Protection CDROM is launched which will take the place of the Step 1 training currently offered by the Child Protection Committee. VAO have a stock of CDROMs here at Anchor Buildings for issue to third sector organisations who need to avail themselves of this training.

July 2010 -

- Planning Aid for Scotland held an open meeting in Kirkwall. Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) is a unique and independent charity. They help people understand, engage with and benefit from the planning system.

August 2010 –

- Briefing Paper and a new web page established for organisations to advertise their committee/Board vacancies.

- Days training for the Development Trusts and Community Development Officers, sessions delivered by VAO in a partnership day with HIE and OIC.

- OLG Open Mike event

September 2010 –

- Training delivered to community groups on committee skills on the mainland and isles. Our own volunteers received training in house. Training facilitated in Fire Safety Awareness and First Aid. Adult Protection CDROM still held in house and issued to third sector organisations.

- Second session on "Introduction to Writing Tenders" facilitated in Kirkwall and delivered by the Social Enterprise Academy.- Big Lottery in the county to meet organisations and pass on advice.

- Credit Union open meeting in Kirkwall facilitated.

## **Edwina Cook and Fraser Devine, VAO cont.....**

October 2010-

- Robertson Trust (funders), held an open Drop In at Anchor Buildings.

CRBS delivered PVG training to all bodies interested in Orkney, one evening or one full day. Further sessions to be delivered by VAO to interested groups.

- Autism Awareness training facilitated with OIC's Principle Educational Psychologist and delivered to third sector and statutory organisations.

- Training for Advisors of folk with disabilities facilitated and delivered by The Action Group. They have received funding from HMRC to deliver a training course on 'rights and responsibilities when moving in and out of work.' The course was aimed at workers in voluntary organisations to give them more confidence in assisting their clients as they consider moving into paid work or need to leave employment. Third sector and statutory groups attended.

## **Malcolm Graves, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service**

- CLD action plans. The action plans for East Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay and for West Mainland will be issued in November. Work on Kirkwall and Stromness action plans has been delayed.
- We have been working with the Youth Workers Forum to set up this year's Youth Conference. The conference is entitled "a RIGHT blether" and is broadly based on the national agenda of the Children and Young Peoples Commissioner for Scotland, Tam Baillie, who is to be our keynote speaker on the day. There will be a 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).
- A Right Blether vote on issues identified by young people in Scotland will be held in schools and other centres in the period: 22 Nov – 3 Dec.
- The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections are due to be held during the period 14 – 25 March 2011.
- Anyone aged 14 – 25 living in Orkney can stand for election. We have two seats. MSYPs take their seats for a 2 year term. We are currently liaising with schools and other partners to determine the role and commitments for MSYPs and how they are supported.
- The 2010/11 Young Scot Book which includes information about local services for young people in Orkney is now ready for distribution. We will shortly be asked to start the collection of local information for the 2011/12 edition.
- The Orkney Youth Café has increased its staff complement. Pete Nicol has taken overall responsibility for the Youth Cafe – All staff can be contacted at [youth.cafe@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:youth.cafe@orkney.gov.uk).
- The Learning Link has secured additional funding to provide ESOL classes in Stromness.
- 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. The North Alliance recently held a successful two-day event in Nairn.