



**Newsletter**  
**Issue 5 February 2008**

## Network News

**Tell It Like It Is Conference – non-traditional approaches to learning – peer education, mentoring and coaching.**

**Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, 27th February 2008**

Scotland has world class examples of peer education, mentoring and coaching. To truly deliver on More Chances More Choices, alternatives to mainstream teaching should be made available consistently nationwide. The experts (workers, mentors and peer educators) need the opportunity to tell it like it is and be listened to by policy makers and leaders.

This event will focus on what's working for hard to reach young people. It will be an opportunity for workers, mentors and peer educators to share good practice and enable interested organisations to find out about some of the best examples of peer education, mentoring and coaching.

*Who should attend?*

- Practitioners, peer educators, mentors.
- Managers and workers who are interested in starting a peer education project or finding out more about other alternatives to mainstream education.
- Policy makers and leaders who need to know more about Scotland's world class non-traditional approaches to learning

*What makes this conference different?*

Your opinions matter and we not only want the day to be about sharing them but also an opportunity to showcase great examples of working successfully with young people with policy makers.

Places at the conference are free to members of SPEN. For more information please contact:

Pat Crook on 0141 285 6047 [patriciac@learnirectscotland.com](mailto:patriciac@learnirectscotland.com)

To book a place please register online at: [www.xtra-mile.com/web/site/events/events\\_peereducation.asp](http://www.xtra-mile.com/web/site/events/events_peereducation.asp)

This partnership event is hosted by:



## **Effective support and development of Peer Educators: a MAP and PATH training event by Circles Network**

### **Engine Shed, Edinburgh, 21st February 2008**

A training workshop by the Circles Network looking specifically at using MAP and PATH techniques with peer education projects. These techniques have already been used successfully with peer education projects in Scotland, using visual planning to work in a person-centred way to assist individuals to achieve their goals in life. Places are available to SPEN members, free, on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a place please contact Audrey Jones, [Audrey@fastforward.org.uk](mailto:Audrey@fastforward.org.uk) or 0131 554 4300

### **Stepping Stones North Edinburgh**

At the end of July 2007 a group of young parents who work to break down stereotypes won through to the regional finals of a national award. Stepping Stones North Edinburgh focuses on peer education through which people from a similar age group, background or social status educate each other about a variety of issues. Workshops delivered to fourth and fifth year students aim to change some of the stereotypical ideas of young parents. Members of the peer education group represented Stepping Stones at the national gala awards ceremony in London and received the regional award. Stepping Stones was one of the runners up for the national winner's award which was announced at the ceremony.

For more information contact Joanne Findlay, Outreach Worker 0131-551-1632

### **Grounded magazine available electronically**

Grounded, a magazine designed and written by peer educators and staff at the Peer Education Project in Dundee is now being distributed in an electronic format. The handy sized printed copies will be sent out to the regular mailing list. To get your hands on a copy of this excellent magazine contact Fiona Bryson on 01382 206060.

### **Young Scot Awards 2008**

Now in their third year the Awards are a chance for us all to show that the young people of Scotland are achieving great things and making a difference to their communities and country. So if you know of, or work with, a young person whose achievements deserve to be recognised, please log on to [www.youngscotawards.co.uk](http://www.youngscotawards.co.uk) and nominate now! The closing date for nominations is the 8th February but please don't delay! For more information on any aspect of the Awards, please contact: Laura Straker at Young Scot on 0131 313 2488 or email: [lauras@youngscot.org](mailto:lauras@youngscot.org)

### **National Youth Workers of the Year Awards**

Nominations are now being taken for the first ever Youth Worker of the Year Awards. Further information and nomination forms are available at [www.youthlink.co.uk](http://www.youthlink.co.uk) A three course dinner with wine, speakers, entertainment and of course the overall celebration with award winners will be held at Murrayfield Stadium on the evening of Tuesday 11 March 2008.

Sponsors for each of the National Youth Worker of the Year Awards have now been confirmed.

- Lifetime Achievement Award - SQA
- Volunteer of the Year - Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service
- Youth Service Manager of the Year - COSLA
- Voluntary Organisations Youth Services Manager of the Year - SCQF
- Innovator of the Year – Learning Teaching Scotland
- Youth Worker of the Year (Full-time or full-time equivalent) – Careers Scotland
- Youth Worker of the Year (Sessional paid/part-time) – NHS Health Scotland
- **Peer Educator of the Year – The Scottish Government**
- Overall Winner – BAA

### **Project Scotland**

The Scottish Government has cancelled funding for high-profile youth volunteering agency Project Scotland. The agency, which has received £16.9m in government funding since it was set up in 2004 by the then Labour-led executive, said it would not fold despite the blow. The new government has agreed to provide Project Scotland with enough funding from April 2008 to cover its current commitments. From April it will only take on new volunteers once it has secured further funding.

### **Youth Achievement Awards Gain SCQF Credit Rating and Levelling**

The SQA has just announced that the Youth Achievement Awards has gained credit rating and levelling against the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. The Youth Achievement Awards use a quality youth work process as a framework to accredit learning in non-formal education. The framework dictates the process, not the activity, so the Awards are used to accredit everything from taking part in the youth group programme to delivering peer education and being an MSYP. SCQF credit rating and levelling of the Youth Achievement Awards now means that Young People will be able to directly map their achievements in Youth Work against School based qualifications, SVQs and Higher Education qualifications. Very importantly, employers and further educators will also be able to do the same.

A peer educator from Dundee said, "It's fantastic to hear that the responsibility I take in my volunteering at the Peer Education Project is comparable to a Higher when I'm still doing my Standard Grades!"

For more information about the Youth Achievement Awards contact Youth Scotland on 0131 554 2561 or email: [steven.greig@youthscotland.org.uk](mailto:steven.greig@youthscotland.org.uk)

### **CSV Dares You to Care!**

Dare to Care: Make Time to Help End Child Poverty is a CSV campaign now running from now until the end of March 2008 that will raise awareness of what community groups can do to tackle the issues of child poverty through volunteering. A shocking 1 in 4 children in Scotland are currently living in poverty. Whilst ending child poverty requires concerted fiscal action by the government, volunteering is one way of raising awareness of this issue and addressing the experience of poverty that children and young people from low income families face.

CSV is hoping that community groups across Scotland will take part in Dare to Care by organising an activity that will give volunteers the opportunity to increase their skills, boost their confidence and improve the social capital of their communities. Activities could include:

- Organising a big day out for children
- Setting up a welfare rights and benefits workshop to improve household income
- Teaching other parents how to prepare healthy meals
- Starting a campaigning group to improve community infrastructure

If you or your groups are stuck for ideas CSV has an ideas finder to help you get inspired!

All participants of Dare to Care will receive an action pack full of useful resources for their activity and also be eligible to apply for a small grant of £50 to cover volunteer expenses, buy raw materials, refreshments and cover other project costs. CSV also provide support with media publicity for groups and will be organising a volunteer awards ceremony in April to recognise volunteers and the activities they organise.

If you have an idea for an activity that would improve the experiences of disadvantaged children and young people in your community and would like to be part of Dare to Care, CSV would love to hear from you. Call Sarah Bromley, Campaign Officer on 0131 622 6677 or email [sbromley@csv.org.uk](mailto:sbromley@csv.org.uk). You can also visit [www.csv.org.uk/Scotland](http://www.csv.org.uk/Scotland) for more information

### **Global Citizenship Leadership Programme**

Mercy Corps is an international relief and development charity working in over 35 countries around the globe. In 2008 Mercy Corps is launching a new initiative here in Scotland to empower and motivate young people about global issues. The programme is based on peer education, and seeks to involve young leaders (aged 12-17yrs) in a series of activities and events throughout the year to engage and influence their peers to take action against poverty, whilst developing leadership and management skills.



The programme also includes training for youth workers, allowing individuals to gain expertise in poverty issues and engage with the young people taking part in the programme.

For more details on the programme, and/or to get involved, please do get in touch!

Contact details: Lauren Fox / Emma Walker: [education@mercycorps.org](mailto:education@mercycorps.org) or 0131 558 8244

For more details about Mercy Corps please visit: [www.mercycorps.org.uk](http://www.mercycorps.org.uk)

# Media and Resources

## Big Lottery Fund research programme

The Big Lottery Fund will provide up to £25 million to fund social, medical or socio-medical research led by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Research programme aims to influence local and national policy and practice by funding VCS organisations to produce and disseminate evidence-based knowledge. In the longer term the programme, through producing sound evidence, aims to help develop better services and support for beneficiaries.

[www.bigresearchprogramme.org.uk](http://www.bigresearchprogramme.org.uk).

## Volunteer Genie Website

Use the power of the media to recruit volunteers: 6.4 million people in the UK would like to volunteer. 15% of them say they just haven't heard about how they can get involved. So how can you reach these people and inspire them to get active?

- Find out what motivates people to [volunteer](#)
- Discover which media [campaigns](#) catch people's attention
- Free [guides](#) to help you devise your own media strategy
- Get top tips on working with [journalists](#) and reporters
- Find out how to engage volunteers in the [new media](#) world
- Prove that your volunteer [recruitment](#) campaign worked

[www.volunteergenie.org.uk](http://www.volunteergenie.org.uk)

## Health Scotland Library

The Health Scotland Library is a national health information resource open to anyone in Scotland with a collection of books, videos and journals focusing on health improvement topics such as alcohol, smoking, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, mental health and sexual health. A range of services are provided including a free current awareness bulletin which allows people interested in health improvement to keep up-to-date with research articles as well as the latest books added to the library – you can view the content of the library bulletin at

[www.healthscotland.com/resources/library/bulletin.aspx](http://www.healthscotland.com/resources/library/bulletin.aspx)

You can contact Health Scotland Library at The Priory, Canaan Lane, Edinburgh EH10 4SG on 0845 912 5442 or [library@health.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:library@health.scot.nhs.uk)

## New! - Journey to Excellence Website (LTS)

LTS has launched its Journey to Excellence website, which focuses on the ten dimensions of excellence for schools and early years centres. Of importance to everyone concerned with the school experience of disaffected and disengaged children and young people. [www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/index.asp](http://www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/index.asp)

## Polish Information Plus

As part of the work of the Translation, Interpreting and Communication Support Implementation Group (TICSIG) - a working group of the Equality Unit of the Scottish Government - a pilot website has been set up to explore the feasibility of creating a central resource of translated information in a range of languages about public services. The website contains information in Polish which has been collected from NHS boards, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations. It also contains information produced in England which is equally relevant in Scotland, as well as a small amount of information produced in other countries which is currently being used in Scotland. [www.polishinformationplus.co.uk/index.aspx](http://www.polishinformationplus.co.uk/index.aspx)

## Nothing about us without us

The English user representatives' report from the 2007 International Harm Reduction Association Conference is now available at

[www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta\\_nothing\\_about\\_us\\_without\\_us\\_irha2007.pdf](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta_nothing_about_us_without_us_irha2007.pdf)

## Effective engagement with young people

The [Scottish Centre for Regeneration](#) website has added new resources on effective engagement with young people. Click [here](#) to help you find out how to involve young people in regeneration through consultation, planning and acting on their views.

### **Keeping the Family in Mind**

This pack was developed through work with children and young people at Barnardo's Keeping the Family in Mind Project. The words used are the actual words of children and young people who care for parents with mental health problems. They show the distress that can be caused, often just through thoughtlessness. Barnardo's and Mersey Care NHS Trust teamed up with Care Services Improvement Partnership North West (CSIP) to produce the pack and make it more widely available. It is hoped that the messages will promote tolerance and understanding about mental illness – for the sake of children in families affected by it.

The pack can be used in a variety of ways to prompt discussion and debate, particularly in education and training settings. The resources can also be used to help break down barriers, foster understanding, and reduce the impact of the stigma attached to mental illness. The pack is particularly relevant to supporting the anti-bullying agenda in schools. To order a pack and to find out about other relevant resources, please go to [www.barnardos.org.uk/research\\_and\\_publications](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/research_and_publications) or phone the Barnardo's Childcare Publications Line on 020 8498 7844. To find out more about the work of Keeping the Family in Mind please contact Louise Wardale on [louise.wardale@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:louise.wardale@barnardos.org.uk) or 0151 708 7323.

### **Hands On Scotland toolkit**

This website is a toolkit of helpful responses to encourage children and young people's emotional wellbeing. This website is designed to help you make a difference to children and young people's lives, by giving you tools to respond helpfully when they are troubled. It is a one-stop shop for practical information and techniques on how to respond helpfully to children and young people's troubling behaviour, build up their self-esteem and promote their positive mental wellbeing. This website was developed by Playfield Institute (NHS Fife) in partnership with Barnardo's and the University of Dundee. It was commissioned by HeadsUpScotland, the national project for children and young people's mental health. [www.handsonscotland.co.uk](http://www.handsonscotland.co.uk)

### **Outside the Box**

Outside the Box has just published reports from a project in West Dunbartonshire. Outside the Box looked at what people who volunteer in mental health projects need to support their own mental health and well-being. People also described the contributions they make and the benefits for them. The volunteers were taking on roles such as being on a committee, running a peer support group and being a user or carer member of formal planning groups. The summary and the full reports are on the website: [www.otbds.org](http://www.otbds.org)

There is also a set of checklists:

- for people to plan for their own well-being
- for projects to plan how to support their volunteers
- for statutory bodies, to plan how they support projects that include the contribution of volunteers
- for staff in mental health services, when they are supporting people who are taking on these active volunteer roles.

The project focused on people who have mental health problems, but the ideas and practical tools will also be useful to people in other circumstances. For more information, contact Anne Connor (Chief Executive) Outside the Box, by e-mailing [anne@otbds.org](mailto:anne@otbds.org), telephoning 0141 445 3062 or visiting [www.otbds.org](http://www.otbds.org)

### **FSA Scotland launches the 'What's Cooking?' Guide**

The Food Standards Agency Scotland has launched a 'What's Cooking?' guide to help people set-up and run school and community food clubs. The guide aims to help participants plan and prepare balanced meals, read and understand food labels, be creative in cooking food, budget for food and learn basic food hygiene skills. It can be used in a variety of settings, including schools, community, voluntary and social care, and the clubs can be run by all kinds of people from student helpers, parents and carers to youth leaders and community volunteers. [www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/oct/whatscooking](http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/oct/whatscooking)

To find out more contact: Caroline Thomson on 01224 285146 or [caroline.thomson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.thomson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Gambling resources**

Tacade produces packs of gambling education materials for young people and have a variety of other publications. Tacade has trainers who can explain how to use the packs. You can look up the website for Tacade at [www.tacade.com](http://www.tacade.com).

### **MV Volunteering Passport**

The Passport is an extension of the MV Awards, a free national awards scheme open to all 16 to 25 year old volunteers in Scotland. The awards are presented at 50 hours, 100 hours and at 200 hours, signed by Scottish Executive ministers and supported nationwide by the Volunteer Centre Scotland Network and Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS). Maybe you are already volunteering or maybe you are thinking about becoming a volunteer. Either way, you can start your very own MV Volunteering Passport today.

[www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk](http://www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk)

### **Turn Your Organisation Into A Volunteer Magnet**

by [Edited by Andy Fryar,](#)  
[Rob Jackson & Fraser Dyer](#)

Forty leaders in the field of volunteer management, from Australia, Britain, Canada, Italy, New Zealand and USA share what they have learned about making your organisation attractive to volunteers. Packed full of top tips and compelling case studies on topics ranging from recruitment and retention, to diversity and creative programme management, these authors – many of whom are published here for the first time – write from the grassroots of volunteer management. Now in its second edition, this expanded collection of ideas is an indispensable resource written by managers of volunteers for their peers. This publication has been placed on Lulu for individuals to purchase copies.

<http://www.lulu.com/content/1197018> If you would like to purchase multiple copies for resell please contact the editors at [magnet2007@mail.com](mailto:magnet2007@mail.com)

### **Young Scot Magazine**

Young Scot has launched a brand new magazine for young people in Scotland and it's available as a publication and also in an exciting new online format. The new magazine was launched just before Christmas in the Sunday Mail. It's a modern, glossy, "handbag size" publication, reflecting the results of consultation and evaluation that Young Scot did with groups of young people last year. It's still full of the usual news, competitions, opportunities and information that young people expect from Young Scot.

But the organisation has also produced a cutting-edge, interactive, digital version of the magazine. When users roll over certain areas of the magazine with their mouse it can pop up and become links to a variety of websites, YouTube videos, discounts, virals, podcasts and lots more.

You can find the magazine by going via the link on: [www.youngscot.org](http://www.youngscot.org)  
or simply by clicking here: <http://viewer.zmags.co.uk/showmag.php?mid=pwsqf>

### **A Taste for Independence**

Community Food and Health (Scotland) have recently produced a new guide 'A Taste for Independence: Using Food to Develop Skills for Life' which aims to be useful for those working with people learning (or relearning) to live independently. It is based on the experiences of 21 organisations from throughout Scotland working with a wide range of vulnerable groups, including young people experiencing homelessness, young travellers, people with a learning disability and prisoners preparing to leave prison.

This new guide looks at how food activities, such as cooking, food shopping and budgeting can be used to develop life skills and how some projects have incorporated these activities into their regular programmes. The guide also includes ten case studies, from projects such as those working with people with mental health support needs and young carers.

The guide is available free of charge to those working in Scotland and can be downloaded from [www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk](http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk) or you can request to be sent a copy by post. For further information, contact: Community Food and Health (Scotland), c/o Scottish Consumer Council. Tel: 0141 226 5261. Email: [knewstead@scotconsumer.org.uk](mailto:knewstead@scotconsumer.org.uk)

### **Know. The Newsletter for the Scottish Alcohol and Drugs Workforce**

The first issue of Know. the newsletter for the Scottish Alcohol and Drugs Workforce (SADW) is now available from the NHS Health Scotland website: [www.healthscotland.com/topics/health/alcohol/index.aspx](http://www.healthscotland.com/topics/health/alcohol/index.aspx)

### **'Getting your message across': a guide to good publicity**

The Tenants Information Service has produced a pack called 'Getting Your Message Across'. It contains sections headed Reaching Everyone, Press Releases, Publicity Stunts, Using Television and more. The pack is in an easy-to-use format with worksheets to help planning. An excellent tool for helping to plan a campaign if you should need it, the pack is downloadable from the TIS website: [www.tis.org.uk](http://www.tis.org.uk)

## **Research and Policy**

### **Being Young in Scotland 2007**

The third bi-annual YouthLink Scotland report which asked 2500 young people aged 11-25 what it's like being young in Scotland is now available. In what is widely regarded as the biggest census of young people's opinion in years, the findings offer an in-depth insight into how young Scots feel about themselves, the communities in which they live and the world around them as well as some fascinating statistics which reveal pastimes, information on health issues as well as attitudes towards, among other things, volunteering, politics and immigration.

For further information or to obtain copies, contact [ssymington@youthlink.co.uk](mailto:ssymington@youthlink.co.uk) or phone 0131 313 2488. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/01/23112644/0>

### **New report provides strongest ever evidence of impact of volunteering**

A new report providing overwhelming evidence that volunteering affects key areas of government policy has been launched today by Volunteering England. [Volunteering Works](#), a publication from the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR), brings together for the first time the best evidence that demonstrates the positive impact of volunteering in five key policy areas: development; safer and stronger communities; social inclusion; quality of life and lifelong learning.

Government has developed numerous policy initiatives in the last twenty years to involve and support volunteers, promoting volunteering as "the essential act of citizenship", a means for combating social exclusion and an important contributor to the delivery of high quality public services. However, this commitment requires a public appreciation of its impact: a Volunteering England online survey found that a majority of people believe that Government does not sufficiently recognise the contribution of volunteers to areas of social policy. Over half of respondents felt their contribution was "hardly"

[www.volcomm.org.uk/news/New+report+provides+strongest+ever+evidence+of+impact+of+volunteering.htm](http://www.volcomm.org.uk/news/New+report+provides+strongest+ever+evidence+of+impact+of+volunteering.htm)

### **'Well? What do you think?' results published**

Findings from the 2006 'Well? What do you think?' survey were published recently. This is the third run of the survey, first commissioned by the Scottish Executive in 2002, which helps to inform and measure the work of the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing. The survey examines the views and experiences of the Scottish people in relation to a range of mental health-related issues. The 2006 survey was particularly exciting, because it included a new tool that allowed the study to explore positive as well as negative aspects of mental health.

The survey found that people in Scotland are generally healthy, satisfied with where they live, feel connected with others and in control of their lives. Awareness of mental health and wellbeing is on the increase and attitudes to people with mental health problems are generally improving, with most of the gains noted in the 2004 survey consolidated. The survey also highlights that there is still more work to be done to promote more public understanding of, and tolerance towards, mental health problems and mental illness, especially schizophrenia. Future work will also need to include a renewed focus on ways in which the media portray mental health and mental illness.

To view the full report, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197512/0052833.pdf>. To view the 6-page research findings, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197508/0052832.pdf>.

### **New Strategy to Attract Volunteers**

An action plan to attract more volunteers to the youth work sector and improve support and development opportunities for youth work volunteers was launched by the Scottish Government last week. The Volunteering Action Plan aims to improve the recruitment, induction and training of volunteers working with young people, and

to support the development of young volunteers. Youth Scotland, working with YouthLink Scotland and Volunteers Development Scotland, will deliver the action plan.

The plan was launched by Children and Early Years Minister Adam Ingram at the Youth Scotland Moving Forward Conference. The overall aim of the action plan is to support the youth work sector to deliver more choices and more chances for more young people through a stronger network of volunteers, and to recognise and reward the contribution of volunteers working with young people. For more information about the Volunteering Action Plan contact Youth Scotland on 0131 554 24561 or email: [carol.downie@youthscotland](mailto:carol.downie@youthscotland) [louise.elliott@youthscotland.org.uk](mailto:louise.elliott@youthscotland.org.uk) You can download a copy of the action plan at: [www.youthscotland.org.uk](http://www.youthscotland.org.uk)

### **LEAP: A Manual for Learning and Planning in Community Learning and Development**

Revised edition

Scottish Government, December 2007

Download a copy at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/205484/0054686.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/205484/0054686.pdf)

### **GO 4 Volunteering Grants**

Go4 Volunteering Grants are available from the Voluntary Action Fund to help promote and support volunteering. The grants can be used for training, professional support and consultation. The fund has grown and more grants are available. Application can be received on a rolling basis.

For more information contact Patricia on 01383 620 780 or download an application pack from [www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/g4v](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/g4v)

### **Comic Relief Announces Next Application Deadline**

Comic Relief which operates a number of grant schemes through its Red Nose Days funding programme has announced the next application deadline for grants over £5,000. Grants are available through six programme areas. These are: Young people, Older People, Mental Health, Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Domestic Violence and Disadvantaged Communities. The grants programme is open to registered charities and constituted community and voluntary groups and grants are made for between one and three years. Although there is no maximum grant size Comic Relief are likely to make grants of between £15,000 and £40,000 per year. For grants over £5000 the next deadline is February 29th 2008. For grants under £5000 there is no deadline. For more information <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/>

### **£1 Million Community Role for Britain's Youth**

Young people have been given the chance to claim a share of £1 million to help tackle the dangers of drugs, crime and play a positive role in their community. The RBS Community Cash Awards will see £1 million of cash grants being distributed by youth charity The Prince's Trust to young people who want to run community projects in some of Britain's poorest areas. The Awards, worth £250 to £5,000, are available to disadvantaged 14 to 25-year-olds across the UK who want to transform their area and learn practical skills. Projects could range from improving local youth facilities to tackling teenage pregnancy or drug misuse. Launching the 18-month initiative last month, Prince's Trust supporter Davina McCall said: "Young people want the responsibility to be part of something. The more you respect and trust young people, the more they'll give you."

For further information on the Community Cash Awards, please contact Rob Cope at The Prince's Trust on 07766 558244 or [rob.cope@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:rob.cope@princes-trust.org.uk)

### **Mental Health Improvement Fund for Young People in Glasgow City**

Expressions of interest in a funding pot aimed at improving the mental health of young people in Glasgow city are invited from across services within the statutory and voluntary sector.

For further information contact [Christine.duncan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Christine.duncan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) or phone 0141 277 7477.

## Events

### **Reconnecting: More Choices, More Chances for Young People – A Practical Approach**

19 February, Edinburgh

This Children in Scotland, in association with YouthLink Scotland, conference will be of interest to all those working in the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors who are supporting children and young people to realise their full potential. The day is aimed at practitioners from education, health, social work and the youth work sector and will be of particular interest to head teachers and school staff, children and families staff, those working in youth justice, economic development, community learning and development, youth workers, parent organisations and community organisations.

This conference will:

- Explore ‘More Choices, More Chances’, the Scottish Government’s strategy to reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training
- Examine what is working well and what lessons should be learned
- Draw on experiences, policy and practice from across Scotland
- Explore innovative approaches to policy and practice development.

Contact: Children in Scotland 0131 222 2438 or [conferences@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:conferences@childreninScotland.org.uk)

Web: [www.childreninScotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk)

### **Generating Alternatives - Youth Participation and Democracy**

The Scottish Centre for Youth Work Studies International Conference 2008

11-14 September, Glasgow

Social and political discourses across the world continue to problematise and criminalise young people and are built on a language of fear, protection, control and surveillance. This is neither helpful in engaging or empowering young people nor is it acceptable in terms of meeting their democratic rights. The active engagement of young people in strengthening their own democratic entitlements is crucial to generating alternative democratic and participatory projects that can increase their capacity to think critically, take transformative action and challenge social injustice. This fifth biannual conference presents an opportunity to reflect upon and engage in this topical debate. It will enable participants to present new research findings, learn from the experiences of others and to engender new ideas for youth work, participation and democracy.

Contact Strathclyde University: 0141 950 3734 or: [Karen.mcdairmant@strath.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.mcdairmant@strath.ac.uk)

Web: [www.strath.ac.uk/pdu/conferencesandevents](http://www.strath.ac.uk/pdu/conferencesandevents)

### **Taking a Critical Stance: A Pupil Inclusion Network national seminar**

Thursday March 13th 2008 (10.30am - 3.30pm)

Albany Learning and Conference Centre: Glasgow

Join us in the Albany Learning and Conference Centre, Glasgow: a new, vibrant learning hub for the voluntary sector for some challenging and inspiring exchanges.

More information and booking information is available from the PINS website:

<http://www.pinscotland.org/critical.html>

### **Free Training for National Voluntary Organisations**

Fairbridge has over 20 years of experience of developing and delivering services for some of Scotland’s most challenging young people. Their in-house training programme equips staff with the tools to enable them to work effectively and safely with challenging young people. Over the past few years Fairbridge have experienced a significant growth in demand to share their experience and to deliver training provision for other organisations, including local authorities, the Fire Service, and other voluntary organisations. In response to this demand Fairbridge have developed a range of courses which will give staff a better understanding of how to engage with and work more effectively with young people from all walks of life.

The suite of courses will run over four weeks and is designed as a whole course or as stand alone single day modules – so you can participate in 1, 2, 3 or all 4 days. They are designed to cater for experienced or new staff.

22nd February Facilitation, Participation and Group Dynamics  
6th March Goal setting, Reviewing and Transfer to Learning  
12th March Difficult and Dangerous Behaviour  
20th March Choice Theory

Each day is based in Edinburgh and there is no charge for the courses as the cost is being met by the National Voluntary Organisations' Support Fund.

For further information contact Lorna Mitchell on 0131 475 2303 or email: [lorna.mitchell@fairbridge.org.uk](mailto:lorna.mitchell@fairbridge.org.uk)

You can also find out more at: [www.fairbridge.org.uk/training](http://www.fairbridge.org.uk/training)

### **National Youth Work Conference**

11-12 March – Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

Eight weeks tomorrow will see the first ever two-day National Youth Work Conference and Youth Work Awards Dinner. Further information and booking forms are available at: [www.youthlink.co.uk](http://www.youthlink.co.uk)

For further information contact Susan Symington, Information & Events Officer at YouthLink Scotland on 0131 313 2488 or email: [ssymington@youthlink.co.uk](mailto:ssymington@youthlink.co.uk)

### **Improving Relationships, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Edinburgh, February 20th and 21st**

A 2 day training event for voluntary sector staff facilitated by the Scottish Governments Positive Behaviour Team with a particular focus on using Restorative Approaches.

For more information and the booking form go to <http://www.pinscotland.org/vulnerability.html#book>

### **LGBT History Month**

LGBT History Month is held annually in February. Events will take place across Scotland including exhibitions, story telling events, film screenings, LGBT nights in pubs and clubs, workplace meetings, training sessions and numerous venues will be displaying posters and information. Check out the newly launched website at [www.lgbthistory.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistory.org.uk) for the latest news, resources and events taking place this year.

### **Want to contribute?**

Do you have any information you would like to share with the SPEN network?

Please get in touch if you have examples of best practice, studies of interest, information on services or upcoming events. The deadline for entries for the next newsletter is 30th May 2008.

Josie Isles

Development Officer

Scottish Peer Education Network

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