

Network News



Tell It Like It Is Conference – Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, 27th February 2008

Learndirect Scotland, the Scottish Peer Education Network and Young Scot recently worked in partnership to deliver this conference on non-traditional approaches to learning. Focussing on what's working for hard to reach young people, this was an opportunity to find out about some of the best examples of peer education, mentoring and coaching in Scotland. The conference:

- Involved speednetworking workshops where delegates could find out more about eight Scottish peer education projects from the young people themselves.
- Presented an exclusive showcase of the new Young Scot WoW website (What's on Where) created by and for young people.
- Was attended by 120 delegates with a range of policy makers and leaders including several MSPs.
- Enabled organisations to find out about the best examples of non-traditional learning.

The event brought together a real range of delegates currently working in the field of peer education or interested in using new approaches with young people in school or community settings.

*Copies of the Conference report and photographs are available from Patricia Crook:
PatriciaC@learndirectscotland.com*

Effective support and development of Peer Educators: a MAP and PATH training event

This event took place at the Engine Shed in February. Lively trainers from the Circles Network showed SPEN members how to use visual planning to work in a person-centred way with young people to assist them to achieve their own personal goals and contribute towards the work of their group. Project leaders looked at ways of improving their practice and enjoyed the chance to network with colleagues from across Scotland, sharing ideas and experiences. For more information contact Josie: josie@fastforward.org.uk

New Project Scotland volunteer for SPEN

Tom Scott came on board in May and is now looking at ways of linking up all young people working as peer educators in Scotland. Plans for a young people's network are underway, and Tom may be in touch soon for more information on your project and the types of support your volunteers might need. Contact Tom at tom@fastforward.org.uk

Are you running a peer education project? Share your experiences on developing websites!

The website for SPEN is currently undergoing an overhaul, and we are developing areas for information and resources for people thinking about running a new peer education project. We would like to include some examples of good practice where a project leader gives a one page overview of their experiences. This might include:

- How the project came about
- Who was involved
- Highs and Lows
- Success stories from the volunteer peer educators
- Topics covered and who workshops have been delivered to
- What you got out of your experience

In particular, we would like to highlight projects which operate in a school context or have close links with schools. We are hoping to include some of these examples of good practice on the Learning Teaching Scotland website to make information more accessible to teachers looking into using a peer education approach. A perfect opportunity to highlight the work you have been doing with your group and help new practitioners.

Entries should be no more than one typed sheet and ideally would include a photograph of you and your peer educators. These will then be edited into a web page which could either be used on the SPEN practitioners site or the developing Learning Teaching Scotland website section highlighting youth work being done with schools. Chat to Josie for further information josie@fastforward.org.uk

National Youth Workers of the Year Awards

The first ever 'Youth Worker of the Year Awards' were held at Murrayfield Stadium in March. With nearly 300 people present at the awards dinner from all over Scotland, the night was a great success and enjoyed by all. All the winners and their nominators were there, along with awards sponsors, conference delegates and representatives of the voluntary and statutory youth work sector. Michael Crow, Political Editor of STV hosted the awards ceremony with his usual good humour and the winners received their awards and certificates from Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years and sponsor of each award. Congratulations to all the winners!!

Awards for Peer Educator of the Year

Gillian Watt, Clyde Valley High School – Silver

Nick Henderson & Chi Kit Chuen, Roars not Whispers (Dundee) – Silver

Joe Rankin, Who Cares? Scotland – Bronze

Smart Move Celebrates new volunteer status

Smart Move, LinkLiving is celebrating its newly achieved Investing in Volunteers status as well as launching a report covering its last two years work. The peer education project for Falkirk recruits and trains young volunteers, many of whom have experienced homelessness, to deliver sessions to their peers about housing and homelessness issues. The project has been successful in educating more than 450 people at secondary schools, youth projects and careers centres around the Falkirk area and through sessions at Polmont Young Offenders Institution. In recognition for its Investing in Volunteers (IIV) status, George Thomson, chief executive of Volunteer Development Scotland presented the IIV plaque to the charity.

Smart Move project coordinator Irene Blackburn along with some of the project's 15 current volunteers presented the new report 'I wish I'd known then what I know now.', which details Smart Move's work to date and contains a DVD, made by the volunteers, about some of the volunteers' own experiences of homelessness. For more information contact Irene ibla@linkhalt.co.uk

Mentor UK Champ Awards

Finalists announced in 2008 Mentor UK CHAMP Awards (Promoting **Children's Health through Alcohol Misuse Prevention**). **Young People's Involvement category:**

- LookOut Alcohol, Preston
- The Peer Education Project, Dundee
- Truth Is: A Denton Alcohol Free Poster Campaign, Denton
- Wasted, Leeds

This is an innovative biennial awards scheme aimed at recognising projects in England, Scotland and Wales that can help prevent children and young people aged 14 or under from misusing alcohol – both now and in their future lives. In 2008 we are asking you to nominate projects that promote healthy attitudes and behaviours and which help children and young people to avoid the dangers of alcohol misuse. You can nominate your own or someone else's project and Awards will be made in the following three categories: for work in schools; for work in the community; for projects led by young people. The 2008 winners in each category will each receive £10,000 cash and up to a further £10,000 worth of consultancy support to help them improve, expand and share their activities. The final selection of winners will be made by panels of young people aged 14 and under.

www.mentorfoundation.org

LANDED seeking new board members

LANDED are seeking to recruit new board members who will help to provide strategic vision and governance for the organisation. We are particularly keen in attracting members who have experience of any of the following: - HR, Finance, Strategic Planning and Legal Matters. Here's more about the work of LANDED:

These days when young people get together and do something negative we hear all about it, but when a group of young people organise themselves to do something positive in their community it sometimes slips by without anyone noticing. The volunteers at LANDED Peer Education Service are just such a bunch of young people and this year they're going to spread the word about the positive things they're doing in Lanarkshire.

Sara, a volunteer with LANDED, explained, "LANDED has about 20 volunteers all aged between 16 and 22 and we meet every week to get training about drugs, alcohol and sexual health. We then go out to and work with other groups of young people in the community and give them the information so that they can keep themselves safe".

The volunteers deliver Peer Education workshops throughout Lanarkshire and say that the young people they come into contact with get a lot out of the workshops. Sara went on to tell us, "we learn something new every week in training and we like getting the chance to pass that information on to others. They always tell us that they've found out something that they didn't know before and that makes it worthwhile".

Shirell Johnson, Training Development Officer with Landed, explained. "The young people we work with are just like any other group of youths in Lanarkshire but they're fed up hearing negative stories about their peers all the time. They've decided they want to fight back in a positive way." The young people from LANDED are determined that people should now about the work they do.

This year looks set to be a busy one for LANDED, Shirell gave us some details. "We're doing the Choices for Life event in June and we'll be helping the NHS celebrate their 60th birthday in July (all at Strathclyde Park), all of this and our regular workshops as well."

As Shirell pointed out, with all this work on LANDED need as much support as they can get. "We're always recruiting young people and are currently recruiting some adults for our management committee to support the work the volunteers do."

So if you're interested in helping young people make more good news stories, in volunteering or joining the Management Committee or in sourcing Drugs Awareness or Peer Education training for staff members, then get in touch with LANDED on 01698 269872 or shirelljohnson@landed.info

Media and Resources

Campaigning toolkit

Whether or not you have already started such a process you might like to check out an easy to follow guide to campaigning developed in Bristol. Just follow the link www.campaigncreator.org/holding_page/

Faith and Spirituality

The National Youth Agency has launched a website looking at faith and spirituality work. It features a number of activities from NYA published materials which groups can use to take forward their work in this area.

www.nya.org.uk/spirituality

New FRANK resources for Mentors and Befrienders

Drugs information for mentoring and befriending organisations and volunteers:

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/frank/>

Launch of Scottish Social Networks Online Database

The new online database maps social networks projects across Scotland, providing an invaluable way for participating organisations and everyone interested in promoting social networks to connect with one another. The database will help increase awareness about the work of participating organisations, giving them the opportunity to share their expertise with one another both locally and nationally. It also provides organisations with the chance to be part of a forum for debate, partnership and networking and to discover where the service gaps are and where their organisation may fit in. To view the database, visit <http://www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/search>.

Stewart Maxwell, Minister for Communities and Sport said: "Tackling homelessness is about much more than simply providing people with a roof over their heads. To prevent the nightmare of repeat homelessness, it's vital that people build social links within their communities, which contribute enormously to their sense of self-worth and therefore their ability to live settled, fulfilling lives. The Scottish Social Networks online database will be an invaluable tool for all the organisations across the country, such as the Rock Trust, which are working extremely hard to help homeless people find that stability."

Scottish Wide Directory of New Migrant, Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Minority Ethnic Services & Projects

In Autumn 2008, Positive Action in Housing (PAiH) will be publishing a brand new Scottish-wide Directory of local initiatives, services, projects, groups and organisations that are serving the specific needs of New Migrants, Refugee, Asylum seeker and Minority Ethnic communities. PAiH are also launching an online version of the Directory to help service providers engage with all their communities across Scotland. If your project, group or organisation (statutory/voluntary/non-profit) provides such services, please help us make this Scotland's best ever directory by completing the quick online form at this link www.paih.org/directory09 or contact Jamie O'Neill by calling 0141 353 2220 or emailing directory@paih.org.

Text 4 U service

Text 4 U is a text messaging service that aims to provide young people with easily accessible information on local sexual health services and sexual health definitions. Consultation with young people has shown that sexual health is a key area that young people want to know more about. It was decided to develop a service that young people could use that would allow them to receive information on sexual health and sexual health services in a way that would be accessible to them. The service is an automated service i.e. is run through a database. It is not a helpline; it is purely a signposting and definition service. Posters and leaflets are available. Contact Julie.craik@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or on 0141 232 8440

Support Scheme to Improve Skills

Work-related training is to become eligible for individual learning account funds as part of a revamp of the scheme. The refresh of Scotland's Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs) is designed to make the scheme more effective and ensure it targets support at those who need it most. Key changes for the ILA Scotland scheme, aimed at targeting those who don't readily access education, include:

- Opening the scheme of 16 and 17 year olds
- Removing the requirement for a minimum personal contribution
- Widening course eligibility to allow funding for work-related courses
- Tightening course eligibility to remove postgraduate courses
- Withdrawing the ILA100 which is open to all adults, regardless of income
- Tightening learner eligibility to restrict funding for pensioners not on low incomes.

Scottish Government News Release, 26.3.08 www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/03/26112906

£3 Million for Youth Projects

Young people in Scotland are to benefit from a new £3 million grant scheme for youth projects to be funded from the proceeds of crime. The latest strand of the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities scheme will provide funding for projects which support young people involved, or at risk from violence, alcohol, drugs or antisocial behaviour as well as support for initiatives such as youth drop-in services and residential, environmental and outdoor activities including climbing walls, skate parks, mountain bikes and canoes and yachts.

The grant scheme will be open to bids from local groups and partnerships for; funding for projects, particularly in areas of multiple deprivation, which fill gaps in provision and will deliver agreed outcomes for young people and groups of young people; and funding for organisations which support young people involved, or at risk of involvement, with violence, alcohol, drugs and/or antisocial behaviour. YouthLink Scotland will administer the grant scheme. There will be two applications stages, with the first running in April/May 2008 with decisions taken by May 2008. The second stage will take place in August 2008 with decisions taken by mid-September 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.youthlink.co.uk/>. You can find out more about how the monies will be distributed between local authority areas at: www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/02/15094650

£200,000 for Rural Communities

Almost £200,000 is to be invested through the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) to ensure rural communities can access a wide range of funding programmes. The money will allow the SCVO to support rural communities out with crofting counties prepare investment plans. This will mean good applications to programmes including LEADER, the Big Lottery and the Scottish Rural Development Programme. For more details, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/02/25080543>

Research and Policy

Alcohol Debate

The Scottish Government has just launched its 'Alcohol Debate'. The aim of the debate is to get Scots to think about the impact of alcohol misuse, recognising the relevance to themselves on a personal level, so they too can understand the scale of the problem. The alcohol debate website (www.alcoholdebate.com) is aimed at everyone, but the two target groups are women and parents. The themes are:

Women

- The link to breast cancer
- The impact on fertility
- Vulnerability when drunk
- Negative impact on relationships
- Impact on weight, appearance and ageing

Parents

- Setting an example of drinking behaviour to children
- Sacrificing quality time with children because of ill-effects of alcohol
- Would you let your babysitter drink?
- Risk-taking behaviour children get involved in through drinking alcohol
- How easy it is for our children to access alcohol.

Looked After Children Being “Pushed Out” of Care and Onto the Streets

Vulnerable young people are leaving care when they are too young, ending up homeless and potentially vulnerable to drug/alcohol problems and unemployment, according to a new report by Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Sweet 16? Exposes the gap between policy and practice with regard to children and young people leaving care. The Commissioner has warned that, with the highest number of children in care since 1982, more and more young people will struggle to cope with the harsh realities of full independence. Sometimes those with more complex needs are encouraged to leave early and both young people and workers reports a strong culture that assumes 16 is the age that people should leave care. *For further information, see: www.sccyp.org.uk*

New approach to tackling drugs

The first national drugs strategy since devolution was launched last week. Community Safety Minister Fergus Ewing hailed it as "a new era" in Scotland's approach to tackling drugs. He said promoting recovery from drug problems would now form the focus of efforts to tackle drug use.

Ministers believe the strategy will help cut the estimated annual £2.6 billion financial burden of problem drug use to the Scottish economy and society. Other key measures include:

- A recognition tackling problem drug use will only be done through effective policies on the economy, tackling poverty, and supporting families and children
- A fresh approach to drugs education, including the provision of factual information on drugs to every household with parents or grandparents in Scotland
- The tracking of investment in drug services and the outcomes they deliver
- A commitment to strengthen existing powers to seize assets from drug dealers
- A new approach to achieve better quality of drug treatment across all prisons

The strategy takes a broad approach to preventing problem drug use and recognises the strong evidential links between problem drug use and deprivation, negative early years experiences, mental health problems and poor educational attainment. The reform of Scotland's education system, through the Curriculum for Excellence, will help sharpen delivery of substance misuse education in our schools.

For more details, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/29103236>. To view the National Drugs Strategy, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/22161610/0>

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Following the publication in August 2007 of the Scottish Report on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child the Scottish Government has produced two booklets, one for children and one for young people which summarises the information in the main report. The aim of these publications is to raise awareness of the Convention and also to inform children and young people about what the Government has done to promote and support their rights. For further information, contact Joan Kay at: joan.kay@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 0131 244 7466.

Events

PEST Showcase event

Bring the young people that you work with along to the 2nd Annual PEST Showcase event which will take place at Cabaret Voltaire, Blair Street, Edinburgh on Friday 27th of June between 10.30 and 2.30. This event will feature a selection of presentations from young people and partner organisations, live music from Gavin McGinty and special guests from Eye of the Child, Malawi. RSVP to Tara Fisher tara@article12.org or 07738766853 by Monday the 23rd of June.

Generating Alternatives: New Horizons for Youth Participation and Democracy

An International Conference on Young People (11th – 14th September)

Please note the deadline for the second call for papers for the above conference is Friday 9th May.

Further information is available online at: www.strath.ac.uk/pdu/ga2008/

Young People and Money

The young People and Money training programme has been developed by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in partnership with Citizens Advice and Fairbridge. Sponsored by the FSA, Young People and Money is a FREE one day training course that delivers financial capability training to those working with 'NEET' young people. The course is designed to improve their confidence by equipping them better to support their young people in becoming financially capable. To secure a place on one of the training dates above, see:

www.a4emoney.co.uk/ymp . The training will take place on:

29 April, Clackmannanshire
21 May, West Lothian
27 May, Dundee
16 June, Glasgow
17 June, North Lanarkshire
23 June, South Ayrshire
1 July, Dumfries
2 July, Edinburgh

Boredom Busters

Wednesday 2 July 2008, 10.00am to 3.45pm (includes lunch) Carronvale Conference Centre, Larbert, Stirlingshire FK5 3LH

Do you need to liven up your training? Add some energy? And make it easy for your trainees to learn? Sheila Fraser Associates has lots of activities that will liven up the boring bits in your training sessions. This one day event will allow you:

- To try out Ice Breakers that will not only just break ice, but enhance learning
- To review a variety of activities that can make the dry and boring bits of learning come to life and be memorable.
- Network with other trainers and share good practice
- And reflect on how all these activities can benefit the learning in your organisation.

Cost £100 – limited to 12 participants. For more information or to obtain a booking form, please contact Sheila Fraser Associates, Braemore, Marjoribank Street, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 1QH by e-mailing sheilafraser@btinternet.com or faxing/telephoning 01506 650 953

Scottish National Depression Week 2008

National Depression Week 2008 will take place between Wednesday June 18th and Tuesday June 24th 2008. If you would like to be placed on a database to receive more information nearer the time, go to

www.dascot.org/contact.html

Get Fit and Raise Money for DAS with **The Great Scottish Walk**: If you want to take part you can do one mile, 6 miles or 12 miles and this will be the first year that you can do the walk in Glasgow as well as Edinburgh. The walks will take place on 25th May in Glasgow and 22nd June in Edinburgh. If you have wee ones, there are Great Wee Scottish Walks for children. www.dascot.org/events/sponsored/GreatScottishWalk/

Drugs and Alcohol Scotland, Braehead Arena, 10 June 2008, Glasgow

This national event opens its doors to some 1,500 people and aims to bring visitors together from across both sectors and regions to debate the latest issues. This one-day event, comprising a full and comprehensive seminar programme and a large exhibition, will provide a unique opportunity for professionals and managers involved in preventing and treating substance misuse, service users and those interested in joining the profession to come together to debate the big issues, share best practice and network. For more information contact Pavilion on 0870 890 1080 or email info@pavpub.com

Choices for Life

'Choices for life' is a national initiative designed to help young people make positive life choices. Schools will be receiving their invitations soon: www.scdea.police.uk/choicesforlife.html

The Gathering 2008

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June 2008 SECC, Glasgow

The gathering is Scotland's charity and voluntary sector fair. It brings together voluntary sector staff, volunteers and community activists. In 2007, the gathering took place in parallel with the CIVICUS World Assembly over a four-day period, thereby creating a bigger impact, greater networking opportunities and more chances for organisations and companies alike to be part of a truly global voluntary sector event. For more information go to the www.gatherscotland.org.uk

Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

Wednesday 23 April or Wednesday 11 June 2008, 10.00am to 4.00p VDS, Stirling

This seminar is designed to help organisations gain an insight into how and why volunteering works in their organisation and how the toolkit can be used to support funding bids, quality systems and provide information on the impact of volunteering. If you would like to attend please contact Pamela Allan for a booking form 01786 479593 or email pamela.allan@vds.org.uk

Include: 4th July 2008, Westpark Business Centre, Dundee

This CLD Conference is for anyone working in the youth and community sector who want to increase their knowledge and improve their working practice around LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) issues. To complete a booking form visit: www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/getinvolved/cld_conference

In Control: Your Life Your Choices 5th-6th July 2008 Westpark Business Centre, Dundee

This is a 2 day event for LGBT young people up to the age of 26, their family, friends and allies with workshops, activities and games providing a mix of vital information on all the things that are important to them and fun stuff. Travel and accommodation are provided for young people. To sign up visit: www.nationalgathering.org.uk

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 September 2008.

Josie Isles

Development Officer

Scottish Peer Education Network

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