



Tayforth – Scottish Social Services Learning Network

May 2008 – E-bulletin

Welcome to our May e-bulletin that aims to keep you up to date on Network news and events throughout the Tayforth area.

Please remember you can access all of our event information and presentations from our website at Scottish Social Services Learning Network

If this bulletin has been forwarded on to you, please register your details by contacting licosford@tayforthsssln.co.uk and we will send you the e-Bulletin personally. Or register online at: www.learningnetworks.org.uk

Forthcoming Tayforth Network Events:

5 th June	National Recognition of Prior Learning Materials	Booking Form
5 th June	Stirling PLQ (SS) Information Workshop	Booking Form
10 th June	Fife PLQ (SS) Information Workshop	Booking Form
11 th June	A Market Place of Learning Event	Booking Form
16 th June	Perth PLQ (SS) Information Workshop	Booking Form
18 th June	Dundee PLQ (SS) Information Workshop	Booking Form
24 th June	Continuous Learning Framework – CPD & Meeting the Post Registration Training & Learning Requirements (This is a joint event with the Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit)	

E – Learning Knowledge Portal

A key resource for Scottish Social Services staff has been developed through a partnership of IRISS, NHS Education for Scotland, SCIE and the 4 Regional Social Service Learning Networks. Social Services Knowledge Scotland is an online resource that will provide social services staff a single point of access to social services information and learning resources. Social Services Knowledge Scotland has tools to support learning, sharing knowledge and putting it into practice.

The site is under development and will evolve in response to your needs, so please use the opportunities provided to send your comments and suggestions. To access go to:

<http://www.ssks.org.uk/home.aspx?referer=AAS&un=nousername>

Invitation to Express Offers of Interest in Commissioned Work

Tayforth Social Services Learning Network is establishing a database of individuals from whom we will invite expressions of interest to undertake future commissioned work. This work will assist us to meet the outcomes from our Business Plan within the required timescales.

We wish to generate a range of contacts who can assist us with a number of activities, including facilitation of events/workshops; small scale social service research to map and scope current workforce development issues; and assisting with knowledge transfer throughout Network partners.

Selection criteria will be set for individual pieces of work being commissioned with processes and you can find out more about this by visiting [Scottish Social Services Learning Network](#)

If you wish to be entered onto our supplier database and contacted for future expressions of interest please click on the link above or contact Lance Cosford (lcosford@tayforthsssln.co.uk) by Wednesday 16th June 2008.

Changing Lives: Maximising MHO Talents

On Wednesday 4th June 2008 at the Perth Concert Hall.

Our BASW MHO Forum Annual Study Conference will be introduced by Chair, Graham Charlton and will be followed by a presentation on 'Improving the workings of the MH(C&T)(S) Act 2003' by Dr Joe Morrow, Acting President, MH Tribunal for Scotland and Annie McGeeney, MH Act Review Group. There will be 2 Workshops during the event and they will be looking at topics such as: Working Together – MHO and Children's Services; Dual Decision Making for MHOS, RMO and MHO; Recovery: What does it mean for carers?; Changing Lives: a MHO Perspective. For more information please contact Johan Grant, Administrative Officer, British Association of Social Workers by email j.grant@basw.co.uk or call on 0131 556 9525. Closing Date for applications is the 30th May 2008.

Update on Workshops in Support of the Contribution of Service Users and Carers

Recently two workshops were held which were designed, in different ways, to support the contribution made by those who use social services and their carers.

What are we worth?

On Monday 25 February an event was held at Discovery Point in Dundee, called "What are we worth?", attended by over ninety people. This was a deliberately forceful title to help focus minds

on the thorny issue of how those who contribute can be recognised and recompensed. The strength of feeling about the issue is amply illustrated in this comment made on the day ***This event is a chance we must all seize to get the system changed. Have you got the courage and passion to support carers and service users?***

There are, of course, complex rules about receiving financial payment, particularly if you are receiving benefits, and this makes it very difficult for certain people to become involved. Some of the presentations on the day looked at these barriers. However, the workshop also highlighted that rewards and recognition come in many forms.

Since the workshop the planning team has been gathering all the feedback comments, particularly the many messages posted on the graffiti wall on the day and ideas generated in the discussion groups.

Some of these comments are in the form of questions and these are being gathered to be addressed in a formal letter to the appropriate source, for example the Scottish Government and Job Centre Plus.

Other comments are in the form of very useful suggestions and these are now being considered by the planning team to see which can be achieved quickly or might take longer to be introduced. In due course the planning team will send out a note of all the outcomes from the event, hopefully with some response to the formal questions.

Grasping the Thistle

The second workshop, in support of Scottish Voices, was held on 19 March at Perth Concert Hall and was called "Grasping the Thistle". This was attended by approximately 70 people and had a different focus as it was designed to let the Universities showcase how service users and carers contribute to social work training in Social Work degree courses across Scotland. Almost all of the 8 universities gave a brief presentation, mainly led by service users or family carers and these were very well received by the audience, for example, ***surpassed my expectations, extremely good and it was very interesting to hear what the various universities have in place regarding service user/carer involvement.***

By the end of the workshop Scottish Voices received several enquiries from individual and groups interested in becoming involved in their activities.

The discussion groups and the presentations generated a lot of very useful suggestions and these are now being looked at by the planning team in order to feedback to the universities and other interested groups on short and long term possibilities. The recent decision by Scottish Government to award a grant of £5,000 to each of the universities delivering the social work degree, specifically to support the involvement of service users and carers, will go some way to supporting these activities.

Promoting Evidence Informed Practice

The Scottish Government and Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) are working together with key stakeholders on developing a research and development strategy for Scottish Social Services. This is important for building research capacity and capability through embedding research in everyday practice and building a research infrastructure that supports evidence informed practice.

Evidence informed practice is not about replacing professional wisdom, it is about integrating the judgments of professionals with the views of service users and research evidence. It has a range of benefits for the users of services, social service staff and managers.

It is likely that you are already using evidence in practice as part of continuing professional development; ways in which this can become part of everyday practice is through:

- Through training, supervision and leadership
- By routinely using critical reflection as part of CPD and in supervision
- By routinely evaluating the impact of interventions and services
- By valuing reflection as much as action
- By providing learning materials within team or area offices.
- By providing space and time to access and reflect on new knowledge
- By setting up reflective practice groups
- By setting up Journal clubs
- By providing internet access and book marking key knowledge resources
- Where internet access is restricted internal portals can direct staff to external gateway sites.
- By providing training on information literacy and critical appraisal skills
- By increasing contact between staff and researchers through research seminars

Some of these require little more than enthusiasm and support. IRISS are already working with some local authority social work departments, learning and development teams and voluntary agencies. These projects come in all shapes and sizes; some involve our Learning Technology Team who work together with organisations and practitioners on making the most of on line resources and developing their on line learning skills. Others projects involve undertaking modest evaluations, developing critical appraisal skills or setting up Journal clubs. In some cases we are working with Learning and development teams to look at how evidence informed practice can be integrated with CPD and workplace learning.

If you are interested in hearing more and discussing the possibility of IRISS working with you, please get in touch with Rhoda at r.z.macrae@dundee.ac.uk or on 07800 964936.

More details can also be found on our website 'Promoting Evidence Informed Practice'

Contribute!

We welcome your contributions. If you would like to contribute please contact licosford@tayforthsssln.co.uk by 20th June 2008 to have your contribution entered into our June ebulletin.

Contact Us



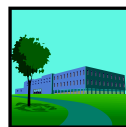
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