

Issue 5 – February 2014



Welcome to the February edition of the Additional and Complex Needs newsletter from College Development Network. We hope you will find this information both relevant and useful.

The next newsletter will be out in April. If there is anything you would like to contribute or a feature that you would like to be included, please [email Lorna Peggie](#).

College Development Network Training Events

Scotland's Mental Health First Aid: Young People (SMHFA:YP)

This 14-hour blended learning course is free to attend for those directly connected to the college sector in Scotland and is designed for anyone working with young people up to the age of eighteen.

SMHFA:YP builds on the success of SMHFA adults intervention course. It trains mental health first aiders to understand:

- how to recognise the signs of mental health problems or distress
- how to ask about mental distress
- how to provide initial support
- how to guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

It has been very well received and feedback has been very positive:

'I found the course very interesting and it's core to my role in college. Absolutely loved the emphasis paid to 'recovery' and the hope given in that.'

'It inspired me and gave me confidence.'

'It reinforced my current practice while raising interesting facts and suggestions for my future practice. Thank you.'

Sandy MacLean will be delivering courses at College Development Network in Stirling on the following dates:

Wednesday 26 February 2014

[View programme and book online](#)

Thursday 29 May 2014

[View programme and book online](#)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the local delivery of this course please [email Sandy MacLean](#).

Get up to speed with developments at SQA National 1 and 2

This well attended event was held on 4 February 2014 at College Development Network in Stirling. Irene Bonnar, Development Officer for National 1 and 2, outlined the changes to units at this level. Participants also provided feedback on the existing portfolio of freestanding National 2 units. This was an opportunity to highlight possible gaps in curricular areas of particular relevance to college students. In addition related teaching materials, developed using Boardmaker Plus! software, were shared.

SQA will be running another National 1 event on 27 March 2014 at Stirling Management Centre. Please visit the SQA website to [book a place](#).

Update on SQA National 1 Developments

Unit Specifications, Unit Support Notes for Units included in Phase 1 are now available on the SQA website. Unit assessment support packs are also available. These are held on SQA's secure website and teachers/lecturers can arrange access to them through their SQA Co-ordinator.

SQA have published tables that illustrate how existing Access 1 Units will be replaced by the new National 1 Units included in Phase 1 – [National 1 replacements for Access 1](#).

New Units developed in Phases 2 and 3 will cover skills associated with communication (including expressive arts and personal development), finding out (including social subjects, religious and moral education and science), number, practical skills and working with technology. These Units will be available for centres to deliver from August 2014. Working titles for these Units, and the broad aims of each Unit can be found on the [National 1 web page](#).

Unit Specifications, Unit Support Notes and Unit assessment support for **Phase 2 Units will be available by the end of February 2014.**

Unit Specifications, Unit Support Notes and Unit assessment support for **Phase 3 Units will be available by the end of May 2014.**

Further information on the replacement of remaining Access 1 Units will be made available following the publication of Units which are part of Phases 2 and 3.

View information about [verification of National 1](#) subjects.

National 2 freestanding units, those not included in Courses, are currently under review and updates will be ready for start of session 2015-16.

Free Resources for National 1 Units (Phase 1) in Boardmaker Plus!

A collection of exemplar resources which can be used to deliver National 1 units (Phase 1) relating to Food, Independent Living Skills and Personal Development, can now be accessed from the [Supported Programmes web pages](#).

The resources are in two formats:

- Boardmaker Plus! interactive boards
- Boardmaker Plus! print resources which can be produced as visual prompts for use in a range of learning and teaching approaches.

You will also find instructions on:

- How to use the resources
- **Learning and Teaching Strategies to Engage Learners** – describes ways in which these materials can be used
- A table which identifies relevant materials from both the Profound and Complex Needs Resources USB and the suite of new materials.

Upcoming Events

Anticipating Reasonable Adjustments

Tuesday 25 March 2014 (1000-1530)
College Development Network, Argyll Court, Stirling

[View Programme and Book Online](#)

This session is provided in response to requests from CDN's Access and Inclusion Forum and college equality practitioners.

During this session consideration will be given to two core areas:

- Creating a learning environment that values and respects equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Creating a learning environment where diverse needs are accommodated and included.

Aims:

- to identify what disability, impairment and reasonable adjustments mean in practice in the classroom
- to raise awareness of the diversity of disabled experiences within colleges
- to share challenges and good practice in reasonable adjustments
- to identify how to anticipate, remove and prevent barriers for disabled learners
- to consider the role of staff and assistive technologies in providing reasonable adjustments.

Workshop Training Materials

Additional Learning Needs Workshop Materials

The Profound and Complex Needs project delivered a range of training workshops throughout Scotland. Though aimed at supporting learners with more complex needs, much of the content is relevant to working with the broader group of students with learning disabilities. They cover issues such as: Understanding the Learner Group, the Curriculum, Target setting, providing a Quality experience and Managing Support. The materials for these workshops can now be accessed on [College Development Network's Professional Learning for Colleges platform](#).



Originally intended to be run over half a day, in almost all cases they can be split into one or one and a half hour sessions, according to the time available.

Each pack contains:

- a detailed training plan
- a PowerPoint presentation
- a set of handout materials
- other additional resources.

If you would like further information or support in using these please [email Lorna Peggie](#).

Employability

A Natural Progression

The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD) has produced a handbook '[A Natural Progression](#)' which describes good practice on supporting students with learning disabilities and autism, into work. The handbook is the result of a review which SCLD carried out into two employment initiatives namely:

Project SEARCH – a one-year transition programme which operates as a partnership between a college, a host business and a supported employment agency.

Transition to Employment which operates as a partnership between a college and an ENABLE Scotland Transition Co-ordinator who is based in college.

The publication highlights the critical success factors in each project, identifies the barriers to their implementation and suggests ways in which they could be overcome.

CALL Scotland – Dyslexia Support

CALL Scotland has produced a 'wheel' of [iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia / Reading and Writing Difficulties](#). The wheel is in the form of an A3 PDF document which provides a visual categorisation of over 80 apps in terms of the areas of support they give learners with dyslexia. The electronic pdf provides links directly to the UK iTunes website, where further information can be found on each of the apps.

The wheel is by no means comprehensive, but provides an indication of some of the apps available to help with a particular task. It has proved to be very popular having been downloaded over 1,700 times in the first week after its launch.

Follow this link to find [a range of Apps Wheels including Apps for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#).

Dyslexia Scotland – Tutors Wanted!

Dyslexia Scotland aims to empower people with dyslexia to achieve their full potential and one of the ways that they do this is by providing a Tutor List Service. However, they are currently unable to meet the demand and are looking for people with significant experience of teaching people with dyslexia to join the register.

If you know of individuals who may be interested or would like further information please contact Celia Richardson at Dyslexia Scotland on Tel: 01786 435 1234 or Email: celia@dyslexiascotland.org.uk.

Widgit Training Course

CALL Scotland is hosting a Widgit Day on Tuesday 18 March 2014. The day is free to attend and Widgit are providing a light lunch.

Doug Watt from Widgit will do a quick update on new products like the apps and the software which are about to be released followed by a session on Communicate in Print and making effective resources. He is also going to cover Symwriter and how it can be used both as a language tool within the classroom and how to make and edit the environments.

There are a limited number of places available so best to sign up quickly – visit their website to [book a place](#).

Education Scotland

Sector Leading and Innovative Practice in Support for All at North Glasgow College (published February 2014)

The college has taken a fresh look at the support available for learners who come to college with issues which may create barriers to success, or are remote from the college and may feel isolated at times when they need help and support most.

The approach examines existing provision from a learner perspective with considerable learner engagement, and develops a plan for revising the support packages available to learners. The approach also takes into account the available options for technology to support communication with learners. One output from the project is a ten-step process model to provide appropriate support for learners as and when they require it. So far this has led to better targeting of support and improved the content and availability of this. In reviewing the issues most needing support, the staff have also developed further their expertise in particular specialties. Allied to the *10-steps* is a matrix which allows staff to monitor performance and identify any critical points in the existing systems. The *10-steps*

and the *Matrix* have been modelled as a 'Snakes and Ladders' board to raise awareness of the risks and needs.

The project will be disseminated as a case study through JISC. There is currently a blog associated with the project and this facilitates discussion around the issues raised and how other institutions reflect on the matters arising.

Around Colleges

Thurso College Life and Work Programme Students' Christmas Mini Market

The students started to make items for sale on the beginning of November and had a really excellent display for the sale day. The students set up the hall and made it look, feel and smell like Christmas. They also took control of selling the items and looking after the customers as they came in.

This was the fundraising main event this year and we used this for the students to achieve the Working With Others Unit.

We made a fantastic £557, which will go towards a trip to Orkney College UHI in the summer which the students will organise. The students are really excited about this as we have been studying the Orkney Islands and they are familiar with some of the tourist attractions and want to visit Skara Brae. The students have been writing letters to the students in Orkney and have received replies.

Evan Imlach: *'It was good to let people to know what we are doing at college'*.

Kenzie MacDonald: *'It was really good fun'*.

Lauren Spray: *'It was really good fun to put together and It was a great success because we sold most of our goods and made over £500 for our trip to Orkney'*.

Charlene Wilkinson: *'I was really proud when my Nannie came because she saw all of our hard work. Nannie enjoyed herself'*.

Louise Forbes: *'We did a Christmas Fayre. I liked it because I made marshmallow snow men to sell'*.

Kelsie Obrien: *'I was not at the mini market on the day, this made me upset'*.

Heather Woods: *'We had a great time and all enjoyed it. The customers loved it'*.

Support Staff: *'Our customers were impressed with the quality of goods for sale and enjoyed the atmosphere we had created. We received lots of nice comments. The best enterprise activity we have ever done'*.

Fiona Buchan
L&WS Programme Leader
North Highland College UHI

Creative Arts

Naturally: Garvald Artists at the Botanics

If you are looking for some artistic inspiration or just needing to relax in a beautiful environment you might be interested in an exhibition by the Artists of Garvald at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Garvald Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity that offers creative opportunities and support for people with learning disabilities and the exhibition is the result of a two year joint project where artists were invited to create artwork in response to their experiences of the gardens.

The [exhibition](#) runs from Sunday 9 to Sunday 23 March 2014.

ICT Tips

Interesting Technology from BETT 2014



For those unfamiliar with BETT, it is the largest educational technology exhibition in Europe. Taking place annually in London, there are over 600 exhibitors including massive companies such as Google, Dell, Intel and Microsoft. The interesting stuff, from an ASL perspective, is generally on the smaller exhibition stands, though there is plenty from the larger manufacturers which may be suitable for those with Additional and Complex Needs. I've summarised my highlights below. For summary of my tweets during the event, including pictures, go to [Storify](#).

Tablets

There were multiple stands showing many different iPad cases, but this one caught my attention. Kensington have a rubbery case called a [SafeGrip](#) which surrounds the iPad, but also has a handle. Great for students who struggle with carrying equipment.

[Tech21](#) make cases from a polymer which adjusts to pressure so should create better resistance to being dropped. They have a range of cases, but more significantly screen covers which protect against impact to the screen (the most vulnerable part of any tablet). Intel was showing a ruggedized Windows tablet – The StudyBook- which should stand up to a fair amount of abuse. Significantly the screen was protected. The person on the stand took great delight in repeatedly dropping a large ball-bearing onto the screen. View the video on [YouTube](#).

Rather than rely on a case to supply a handle, Samsung have produced a version of their Tab 3, 7 inch tablet from education which has a handle built in. The disadvantage? It is bright yellow and blue: <http://bit.ly/samsungeducation>.

Software

There are currently two pieces of software designed to support emergent eye-gaze users (Eye-FX and Look to Learn). Inclusive Technology were showing previews of their software package – [Inclusive Eye Gaze Learning Curve](#) – which comes out later in the year. The first title focuses on Attention and Looking and provides a progression of engaging activities to assess and develop eye-gaze users.

Audio Notetaker is a great piece of software from Sonocent. They have now released a version for iOS (iPad/Phone etc). Called '[Recorder](#)', it enables students to record live audio of a lecture and mark the important points as they go along. The result can later be uploaded to the full version of Audio Notetaker for further revision and linking to PowerPoint slides or images.

Other

Since production of the Flip video camera ceased I've been looking for an alternative which is as easy to use, but not expensive. TTS have produced one which seems to fit the bill. It feels a bit plastic, but is simple to use and has a built in USB plug to transfer the content. It also has a 4GB SD card and HDMI output: <http://bit.ly/ttscam>.

[Beamz](#) is a very unusual and accessible way to play music. For students who are unable to hold or play standard instruments, Beamz provides four laser beams which, when broken by a hand or object, will trigger sounds from an attached computer.

Fil McIntyre
Assistive Technologist, The BRITE Initiative
Email: fm McIntyre@brite.ac.uk
Twitter: @FilMcIntyre

JISC



iTech Case Studies

Here at Jisc RSC Scotland, we are all about promoting the use of technology in academic institutions. We've found that publishing case studies is the perfect way of capturing information about the innovative use of technology for learning and teaching and getting it out to the sector in a timely and bite-sized way. Every case study submitted is put up on our website, so it is attracting interest immediately. All case studies will be automatically put forward for a Jisc RSC Scotland iTech Award, which will be presented at our Annual Conference and iTech Awards event in June.

If you've been working on a project or have been tinkering with technology and found a solution that has improved practice, why not share your creativity with the rest of FE & HE institutions in Scotland? The team at the RSC will work with you to write it up, and will do the bulk of the work for you. And who knows? It could well be you walking off with an RSC iTech Award. We are interested in examples of inclusive practice from staff and students. Our learner ambassador awards provide the chance for learners to show how they use technology. This means that not only are staff nominated for an iTech award but learners are too!

Got an Idea? Give us a call or drop us an email. If you need some inspiration, have a look at our impressive catalogue of previous case studies. They can be found in the [Jisc RSC Scotland Showcase](#), a fully searchable website where you will find a collection of useful resources.

Items which may be of particular interest are:

- [RSCtv: In-Folio: An Accessible e-Portfolio System](#) which provides examples of the range of ways that colleges have employed In-Folio on Supported Programmes
- [Not big, not clever... but not trivial](#) which advises on methods of accessing textbooks in alternative formats.

Enable: The 2nd International Conference on Using New Technologies for Inclusive Learning

Jisc TechDis and the University of Glasgow are partners in the [ENABLE project](#) which started in November 2011 and lasts three years.

At the moment Jisc TechDis is calling for papers for the second international conference organised by the Enable Network for ICT Learning for Disabled People which will take place in York on 18 and 19 June 2014. The conference centre's on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to support lifelong learning by disabled adults and older people. Suggested topics for papers include:

- Assistive ICT Projects
- Tablets and Mobile technologies
- E-safety and learners with disabilities
- Alternative approaches to alternative formats
- Access to maths
- Educating for self-advocacy
- Game-based learning.

Abstract submission deadline: Friday 14 February 2014

Find out more details on their [website](#).

WHODUNNIT? Jisc RSC Scotland Annual Conference and iTech Awards Ceremony

Investigate the use of technology in Scottish education at the Jisc RSC Scotland Annual Conference on Friday 13 June 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow. £150 or free to staff from Scottish FE and HE institutions.

'Come, Watson, come!' he cried. 'The game is afoot.' – Sherlock Holmes (The Adventure of The Abbey Grange).

The game is indeed afoot – are you up for IT? Join us at this year's Jisc RSC Scotland conference, where we will be investigating the very latest technologies & tools for teaching and gathering evidence of best practice in FE and HE in Scotland. Booking is now open. There's not a moment to lose ... places will be limited, so dust off your deerstalker and [book today!](#) Details of the full programme will soon be released ... keep your eyes peeled and magnifying glass to the ground!

Margaret McKay
eAdvisor: Inclusion, JISC RSC Scotland
Tel: 0141 585 0022 or 07525 123 981



Free Stuff

Talking Mats Digital

Talking Mats is a communication tool designed to improve the lives of people with communication difficulties. They have now produced a digital format [Talking Mats – free taster for iOS and Android devices](#).

There is the option to upgrade to a **lite** or **pro** version for a more extensive range of images.

Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities (SCLD) – Healthy Eating Healthy Living

A training pack designed to encourage healthy eating as a way of life for people with learning disabilities. The pack provides all the materials needed to run a course on [Healthy Eating Healthy Living](#) and will teach participants the knowledge and skills required to eat a healthy and balanced diet:

Teaching Ideas

This [Teaching Ideas website](#), though designed for use with school age pupils, has a range of resources which if used selectively, can be a useful addition to a number of curricular areas.

