

## Issue 08 – October 2014



Welcome to the October edition of the Additional and Complex Needs newsletter from College Development Network. The 2014-15 session is well underway and you now have a new set of students whose various needs must be met. We hope this newsletter will help keep you up-to-date with events and also provide some insights on practice and resources which will make this task easier.

If you would like to contribute an article or identify a feature that you would like to be included, please email [lorna.peggie@cdn.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.peggie@cdn.ac.uk)

## College Development Network (CDN) Training Events

### Access and Inclusion Network

The Access and Inclusion Network is primarily for staff across Scotland's colleges with key responsibility for ensuring the access and inclusion of learners with a broad range of additional support needs, into all aspects of college life. The range of roles within the group are broad and include Managers and Lecturers within extended learning support or supported programmes, those with responsibility for equality and inclusion and those involved in student guidance. Representation is as inclusive as possible. It creates the opportunity for learning and sharing in support of staff that occupy challenging roles. In addition the network is an invaluable sounding board for the team at CDN. It is hosted at CDN and meets three times a year.

Following consultation with the network they identified key elements regarding the remit of the group:

- it remains an open network
- it continues as a supportive, solution focused network
- has a strategic voice on behalf of the sector
- is a sounding board for CDN and partners (SFC, Scottish Government, Third Sector etc.)
- will share practice with key networks such as the Guidance Development Network
- will provide an opportunity to meet and influence key policy makers
- will provide a platform for the CDN team to give the group strategic updates.

This session network meetings will be held on the following dates, between 1000 -1200 at CDN on:

Thursday 09 October 2014

Wednesday 04 February 2015

Thursday 11 June 2015

See link to first meeting: [College Development Network Events Page](#)

In addition to network meetings we will be holding a series of events over the course of the year, focusing on priorities identified by the network.

If you are interested in joining this network or would like to find out more please contact Sandy MacLean [sandy.maclean@cdn.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.maclean@cdn.ac.uk)

## **College Development Network (CDN) Workshops**

Two half day workshops are currently available for delivery locally. These may be of interest to both support staff and lecturers.

### **Supporting Students on the Autistic Spectrum with Learning Disabilities**

It aims to:

- increase understanding of the characteristics of learners with autistic spectrum disorders
- explore how these may impact on their college experience
- consider strategies to improve their college experience
- reflect on department and personal practice and identify targets for improvement.

### **Getting Up To Speed with Developments at National 1 and 2**

This is targeted at curriculum designers and staff currently working with students at SCQF levels 1 and 2.

It aims to:

- familiarise participants with new qualifications at National 1 and 2
- familiarise participants with considerations relating to delivery
- provide an opportunity to share and discuss issues relating to future curriculum development
- provide access to approaches and resources to support the delivery of National 1 and 2 units.

If you are interested in either of these workshops and would like more information or would like to discuss possible dates please contact [lorna.peggie@cdn.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.peggie@cdn.ac.uk)

We are also happy to discuss any other training requirements.

## National Developments

### Update on the Simplified Approach to Funding

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has been working with the Principals/Regional Chairs Working Group to develop a new simplified approach to funding colleges. This is on schedule to be implemented in 2015-16 and is currently parallel running the system with three regions in the 2014-15 academic year.

SFC plans to run workshops where the Colleges involved in parallel running, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee and Angus and New College Lanarkshire, will share their experience.

Key features:

- credit targets will replace SUMS
- ELS will become a separate funding stream based on historic 2012-13 level of £44 million
- the price per credit will be dependent on the mapping of courses into 5 price groups
- price group 5 is a direct replacement for dpg18 courses designed for students with learning difficulties.

The full guidance document can be accessed at [SFC website](#)

## Education Scotland



### Making Sense: Education for Children and Young People with Dyslexia in Scotland

An independent review of education for children and young people who have dyslexia was carried out by Education Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government and a [report](#), was published in May 2014. An [executive summary](#) of this report is now available.

The report refers to the Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit which includes professional learning materials [Meeting the Needs of Learners with Dyslexia](#). This is an excellent resource for both individual and small groups of staff and includes a case study from Reid Kerr College outlining their approach to identifying and supporting students with dyslexia.

### Employment Skills Units at National 2

The development of freestanding Units at National 2 is underway and SQA has requested the involvement of lecturers and teachers in respect of writing tasks which would be included in Unit Assessment Support packs for the new employment skills Units.

The units cover the following vocational areas:

- Retail and Customer Service
- Manufacturing
- General Car Care and Valeting
- Construction and Engineering
- Health and Beauty Treatments and Therapies
- Leisure and Sport
- Marketing and Events
- Office Administration

### Verification Reports for National 1 and 2 Units

Round 2 of the verification for National 1 and 2 has been completed. This [report](#) highlights the key findings and provides further guidance on making assessment judgements and presenting evidence for verification.

### National Literacy Units

For any centres delivering National Literacy Units at National 3, 4 or 5, a wide range of support is allowed when the four literacy skills are being assessed to help any disabled learners and learners with additional support needs (ASN).

Details of supportive practices for National Literacy Units as well as some common questions and answers, are available at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/literacysupportforlearners>.

A short animation explaining support in National Literacy Units is also available and may be useful for students, parents, carers and others, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndj79mxFasM>

Centres can contact SQA directly via [aarequests@sqa.org.uk](mailto:aarequests@sqa.org.uk) for advice about what support might be possible for individual learners with specific needs.

Please note that successful completion of Literacy at National 3, 4 or 5 gives **automatic certification** of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF levels 3, 4 or 5, respectively.

## Employability

The [Employability in Scotland website](#) provides a practical resource for all those involved in funding, planning and delivering employability services in Scotland. It has links to a number of useful resources, such as service guides, case studies, news items, events and workshops and policy and research.

You can also sign up for their monthly e-zine.

## Meeting Communication Needs

### CALL Scotland

Funded by the Scottish Government's "A Right to Speak" project, CALL Scotland has launched [a new mini-site](#) dedicated to raising awareness and providing support for those of you who are working with users of augmentative and alternative communication aids (AAC). It also provides a useful introduction for staff who are new to the challenges of supporting students' communication needs.

It provides:

- a short video raising awareness of communication needs
- a range of printable posters, leaflets and communication boards
- access to five short online learning modules for people who would like to learn more about augmentative and alternative communication; the modules can be viewed one by one as 'stand-alone,' or in sequence
- information about further training.

## SCQF

Programmes at SCQF Level 1 and SCQF Level 2 continue to be developed and there are now 44 entries at these levels on the SCQF database. The subject areas range from Personal Achievement Awards, SQA Languages Qualifications, Drama, Music, Media Studies, etc. The SCQF Partnership is currently revising and updating its handbook and information about using the SCQF Level 1 level descriptor (based on the previous guide) will now be incorporated into the revised version. The SCQF Partnership estimates that the revised Handbook will be in place for use by Spring 2015.



You can access the [database](#) from the recently revamped SCQF website. SCQF level 1 units from Borders College and Dundee and Angus College are included.

## ICT

### Boardmaker On-line Launched by Mayer-Johnson

Boardmaker Online is a web-based subscription service, unlike previous products it does not need to be installed or even downloaded. It can be used to:

- create and edit activities on any Windows or Mac computer... nothing to install
- assign activities to students
- play activities from a web browser
- track performance and usage data
- track progress towards IEP goals (Professional and higher) and educational standards
- access massive collection of sample activities

Students will shortly be able to download an app to enable activities to be used on an iPad.

There are 3 levels of subscription:

- A Boardmaker Online Personal account allows an instructor to login and find or create activities and put them in a playlist for their student to access through the web or an iPad
- A Boardmaker Online Professional account allows a single instructor to find or create activities and assign them to many students
- A Boardmaker Online District account allows an organization to have many instructors creating and assigning activities to many students.

Another benefit is access to FREE, live online trainings every Tuesday and Thursday. The training is also recorded in case you are unable to attend the live one.

For more information you can investigate [frequently asked questions](#) with the option of a free 30 day trial.

### DART 2.1 project

TheDartProject

### Dart Project Update – September 2014

The Dart Project has been busy over the summer months analysing the responses to the Dart Project survey, this survey is informing the design and delivery of our workshop series, we will be publishing details of the workshops that will take place at College Development Network, Stirling as soon as possible.

In addition to the preparation for the Workshops the Scottish Dart 'deep support' Colleges – Borders College and City of Glasgow College staff have been working with the Dart team and Beaumont College staff in particular to develop their Dart project planning. This process has been supported by Mags McKay from Jisc RSC Scotland. Over the next couple of months staff from the deep support colleges will be undertaking work shadowing opportunities with Beaumont College assistive technologists as well as assistive technology training taking place in the deep support Colleges themselves.

For more information please see: <http://dart.beaumontcollege.ac.uk/>

**JISC**

## Jisc TechDis Changes



Jisc TechDis is changing the way it delivers services. Its new customer service model will see a service delivered across seven geographical areas, including Scotland.

- This [statement](#) from Jisc Techdis provides information on the changes specific to the Jisc Techdis service as a result of changes within Jisc
- In addition Jisc have also offered a formal statement on the Jisc website about reshaping Jisc's customer services (<http://tiny.cc/jisc-reshaping>) and the new national and regional customer services (<http://tiny.cc/jisc-new-services>).

If people have any questions about the proposed changes they have been invited to get in touch with: [engage@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:engage@jisc.ac.uk)

Margaret McKay  
Advisor: Inclusion  
Jisc RSC Scotland

## FREE Stuff

### Doorway Supermarket – A Simulation of Buying a Number of Items at a Supermarket

[Doorway online](#) is a collection of free learning activities originally developed with funding from Scottish Borders Council. It is now managed by the Doorway Accessible Software Trust, a Scottish charity. The suite comprises highly accessible educational activities. Each activity has range of accessibility options and learning levels.

From October this site will offer a new, cost-free, activity, **Doorway Supermarket**, which was designed in conjunction with staff at Howdenburn Education Support Centre, Jedburgh. The software simulates a visit to the supermarket. It allows the user to:

- choose items from a shelf
- round prices up/down (optional)
- pay for a basket of groceries.

It aims to give awareness of current prices and of how far £15, for example, will stretch and also to help develop an awareness of the receipt.

It has four screens;

- Shelves - with priced items that users can put in their trolley - a choice of 48 items
- Till - allows the user to pay for their items and receive change
- Conveyor belt – fun watching the items as they are “rung up”
- Receipt - which may be printed.

Prices will be updated regularly and kept realistic.

The accessibility features in this activity are easy to use: click to move, making it suitable for interactive whiteboards, speech output and switch access.

We are looking for Schools and Colleges that might adopt this this on-line activity, as a part of their National 2 courses. If your students would benefit from using Doorway Supermarket, join the community get in touch [admin@doorwayonline.org.uk](mailto:admin@doorwayonline.org.uk)

For fuller information go to <http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/news/>

Our thanks go to The Robertson Trust, Miss Agnes H Hunter's Trust, and Charity Begins at Home (Kelso) for funding the programming of this software activity.

Philip Whittaker – Chairman, the Doorway Accessible Software Trust.

