



Issue 13 – January 2016



Best wishes for a productive and successful 2016 and welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

As usual, if you would like to contribute anything to future newsletters or would just like to discuss whether something would be of interest, please email lorna.peggie@cdn.ac.uk

Please share this newsletter with colleagues who would find it of interest.

CDN events

Enabling Student Carers Project Update

The Enabling Student Carers to Access and Succeed in Scotland's Colleges – Sharing Practice event on 4 November was very successful. Participants brought along examples of practice that included

- a protocol agreement with a carer organisation
- web pages and leaflets aimed at carers
- examples of processes intended to support and enable student carers
- examples of carer questions on college application forms.

These examples will be added to CDN's Professional Learning Platform (PLP) Enabling Carers section.

<http://professionallearning.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/>

This section of the PLP also has a number of resources developed by CDN for use by colleges when working with carers and we will shortly be delivering webinars that will introduce the resources to those who aren't already familiar with them.

Contact:

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Sandy MacLean sandy.maclea@cdn.ac.uk

Upcoming events

Access and Inclusion network meeting

Thursday 4 February 2016 (1000–1300)

The agenda includes:

- Recommendations following the ELS review – Fiona Burns, SFC
- Additional and Complex Needs/Resources to support SQA Employability units – Lorna Peggie, CDN
- Outputs from Assistive Technology Network Event – Claire Guthrie, City of Glasgow College
- Staff Training Resource/Case Studies – Rebecca Scarlett, Lead Scotland
- Equalities Update – Suzanne Marshall, CDN
- Upcoming digital resources and courses – CDN Team
- Corporate Parenting Plans – Andrée Carruthers, CDN
- Mental Health Developments – Sandy MacLean, CDN

[Follow this link to book a place](#)

Webinar: Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment: Mind-Mapping and Digitisation

Wednesday 10 February 2016 (1230–1330)

Target Audience: Student learning support staff, learning technologists and library staff, lecturers and head of departments.

This webinar looks at mind-mapping techniques as a fundamental study aid which benefits all students but particularly those with dyslexia. The session also looks at the work of College Library Services in developing their e-book collections.

[Follow this link to book a place](#)

Corporate Parenting Plans – Update



CDN has now undertaken a number of consultative visits to colleges to support them in developing their Corporate Parenting Plan. The most recent visit, along with the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (Celcis), was to Aberdeen where we met with North East Scotland College, Robert Gordon University and the University of Aberdeen to look at their joint regional Corporate Parenting Plan. If you are involved in developing your college's Corporate Parenting Plan and would like support please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think a consultative visit would be useful.

On 11 March 2016 at CDN we will be holding another Corporate Parenting Event. There will be the opportunity for participants to see the Corporate Parenting Plan Guidelines developed by CDN, review examples of draft plans, hear about examples of collaborative working and discuss any issues around the duty to collaborate with other corporate parents.

Further event information will shortly be available from this link to [upcoming events](#).

Andrée Carruthers andree.carruthers@cdn.ac.uk

Sandy MacLean sandy.maclean@cdn.ac.uk

Other upcoming events

Eye Gaze

We have in the past had enquiries from college staff wishing to know more about Eye Gaze. Eye Gaze is an eye-operated communication and control system that enables people with disabilities to communicate and interact with the world. By looking at control keys or cells displayed on a screen, a user can generate speech either by typing a message or selecting pre-programmed phrases. It can also be used to send e-mails and to browse the internet.

Ian Bean of Senict is offering a hands-on workshop on Eye Gaze, iPads and Apps in Livingston on 2 March. He will also look at iPads focusing specifically on the features most useful to teaching students with additional and more complex needs.

[Follow this link to find out more](#)

Employability

Supporting students on the autistic spectrum

Undertaking a job interview or an interview for a work placement is challenging for most students but it is particularly difficult for students on the autistic spectrum (AS). It is certainly not part of a normal routine and requires a high level of communication skills. Employers may not always understand the difficulties that this can present and may misinterpret behaviours as showing a lack of interest or an inability to meet job requirements.

Funded by the Scottish Government, Values Into Action Scotland (VIAS), has produced a short video which offers practical advice to employers on getting the interview and induction right.

Staff preparing AS students for work placement or for transition out of college might like to share [this video](#) with prospective employers to highlight how to get the most from an autistic employee. It might also benefit college staff involved in the interview process.

The [Autism Network Scotland website](#) provides extensive information for employers, autistic people, service providers, and professionals; including videos of some very positive employment success stories.

Panjango

Panjango is a free careers education resource which allows young people to connect to the world of work. Its interactive games format encourages the learner to find out about a range of different jobs and then challenges them to carry out tasks relating to that job. There are individual and whole group activities. You will need to register online but it is not restricted to school users.

[Follow this link to try Panjango online](#)



Career Detectives

From the same company comes a board game [Career Detectives](#). Although it was originally targeted at school pupils around the transition stage to secondary, it would also fit well with learners on employment skills programmes in college.

The game provides information about work across all sectors. It also enhances and raises awareness of key employability skills and other important aspects of the curriculum such as healthy lifestyle and citizenship.

Unfortunately this is not a free resource but it is highly recommended and comes with a money back guarantee.

[Follow this link to find out more](#), you can also view a video demonstration here.

LEAD Scotland

New Chief Executive Officer

LEAD Scotland has announced the appointment of their new Chief Executive Officer. Emma Whitelock has worked with LEAD Scotland for almost twenty years and is a familiar face at Access and Inclusion events. To find out more about Emma's thoughts on her new role



[Read Emma's interview with Third Force about her appointment](#)

Disability Rights UK – Seeking case studies

Disability Rights UK are looking to gather personal stories and case studies from people who have acquired an impairment and then returned to employment. They are particularly keen to hear about stories that have involved re-training, learning new skills or returning to education. The stories should be around 400 words and they are offering £50 Amazon vouchers for any stories that end up featuring in their guide.

[Follow this link to find out more about disability stories](#)

Supporting learning

Addressing bullying

Bullying is something that is frequently experienced by young people and adults with learning disabilities. MENCAP, in partnership with the Met Film School, has produced this video to highlight how this feels. It also raises awareness of the subtle forms that bullying can take. The video stars individuals who have had personal experience of bullying and will be a useful stimulus for discussion with students.

[MENCAP anti-bullying video](#)

[Follow this link to find lots of useful resources](#) that tells you about bullying, what you can do to stop it and where you can go for support and advice.

Dyslexia awareness

The [Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit](#) is a free comprehensive online resource for all who are involved in the identification and support of learners who experience literacy difficulties.

One of the recommendations in the 2014 Education Scotland report [Making Sense: Education for Young People with Dyslexia in Scotland](#) was that Dyslexia Scotland should work with local authorities and schools to encourage all teachers to be familiar with, and make appropriate use of, the Toolkit.

The toolkit has a traffic light system so individuals, whether – teachers and lecturers, learning support staff, or those tasked with carrying out assessment of individuals, can access the relevant sections.

Fran Ranaldi, chair of the development group, has delivered a [webinar for CALL Scotland](#) which provides a useful 20 minute introduction to this extensive resource.

ICT

Assistive technology forum



Do you know who to ask about that niggling AT issue you haven't yet resolved? Ever wondered what the top spelling apps are for dyslexic students? The Assistive Technology Network was launched online in September 2015 and now has over one hundred members from the FE and HE sectors across the UK. Topics covered to date include Roaming Profiles, mind mapping and referencing apps, note taking solutions, information on funding opportunities, networking, and job vacancy information.

The network was launched with a face-to-face meeting in December 2015 at CDN. Members discussed what they would like the network to deliver and answers included: a place to share best practice and learn about new technology as well as the potential opportunity to develop practice through webinars and face-to-face meetings.

If you haven't already joined the forum, a diverse membership (from various disciplines in colleges and universities) is encouraged to keep posts interesting and informative 'on and around' the topic of Assistive Technology for students in FE and HE.

Feel welcome to invite new members – if you wish to join simply send an email to Claire.Guthrie@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk asking to be included in the group.

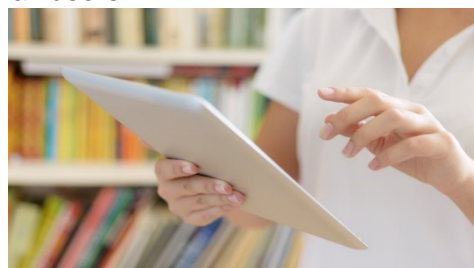
The network is a practitioner led group led by City of Glasgow College with support from Jisc and CDN.

Inclusive mobile learning



As the use of smartphones and mobile devices becomes more ubiquitous, people are beginning to appreciate the important role that mobile technology can play in enhancing the learning experience. There is growing acknowledgement that rather than being a disruptive influence, mobile devices are increasingly being recognised for their ability to enhance teaching and learning and contribute to the digital student experience. Mobile platforms come with built in features and access to a wide range of apps that provide choice for users. However rather than framing these as 'accessibility' tools, many are starting to recognise the potential to exploit these as benefits for all users.

Last year Jisc asked people to share their experiences of using mobile technologies to support students with learning differences and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. These new case studies have been added to the Mobile Learning Guide and unpack many examples of effective practice.



Examples show how colleges across the UK have used mobile technology to personalise learning, to aid communication, to enhance literacy and facilitate peer support, to share resources and to create content.

<http://tiny.cc/MobileCaseStudies>

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Free Stuff

[Doorway online](#) is a collection of free learning activities, though as a registered charity they would appreciate donations if you find the resource useful. The focus is on literacy and numeracy activities. Some tasks may not seem appropriate for college students but the time and money section which provides practice in money handling and shopping activities is pitched at an appropriate level. The site also benefits from excellent accessibility including access for switch users.

Quick Links

[Past ACN newsletters](#)

[CDN professional learning platform](#)

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