



"Supporting play, care and learning"

Funding News

Changes to Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)

On the 20th April, Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning announced changes to the Individual Learning Account Scotland Scheme, for the 2009 – 2010 academic year. It is anticipated the changes will benefit up to 250,000 people in Scotland. The new changes mean that:

- the income threshold will be increased from £18,000 to £22,000;
- the minimum study requirement for the ILA £500 grant will be reduced from 50% of a full-time course to 40 SCQF Credits;
- eligible students studying part-time taught postgraduate courses (SCQF level 11) will be supported through the ILA500 scheme

Ms Hyslop said, "More individuals than ever before will be able to benefit from Government support in developing their skills and undertaking training to help them in employment. Increasing the income threshold to £22,000 extends eligibility for ILA support to an extra 250,000 people - covering nearly half the adult workforce."

Irene Audain, SOSCN Chief Executive welcomed the announcement and said, "This is good news for the out of school care sector, and I hope that this will provide the necessary financial support so needed by many workers to undertake qualifications. The cost of qualifications can be a barrier to individuals starting or remaining in study, yet to have a professional and skilled workforce we need staff qualified to a level appropriate to their job."

Funding & Support for Training Guide 2009

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has recently published a Funding and Support for Training Guide. The purpose of the guide is to provide current information on sources of funding and activities which support training, currently available for organisations delivering social services e.g. out of school care clubs in Scotland. The guide is comprised of three sections:

- Information about sources of grants and revenue funding available to public, private and voluntary providers to contribute to training, education & workforce development
- Details of sources of advice, consultancy and other forms of support.
- Descriptions of eLearning resources, relevant to the social services sector.

Copies of the guide are available on the SSSC website: www.sssc.uk.com or can be obtained by phoning 01382 207186.

Community Food & Health (Scotland) Small Grant Scheme 2009

This grant scheme is now open to groups or agencies working with low-income groups to provide activities and services focusing on healthy eating. Previous successful grant applications have included training lunch club volunteers, purchasing a poly-tunnel, and cookery workshops for parents and children. **Grants are available from between £500 and £4,000. Please note the closing date for grant applications is 5pm on Friday 26th June.**

For further information visit www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk or contact Community Food & Health (Scotland) on 0141 226 5261

SOSCN News

Aiming High Scotland- Quality Assurance Scheme

SOSCN's Quality Assurance Scheme for out of school care services in Scotland, Aiming High Scotland has recently been updated in line with changes in legislation and regulation requirements, and will be available from the end of April 2009. The new edition of Aiming High also highlights a commitment to supporting Children's Rights as well as introducing eco-friendly practice.

As the Care Commission, and increasingly funding bodies, are looking for organisations to be quality assured, or participating in a quality assurance scheme, the new edition clearly states how and where evidence for Aiming High Scotland can be applied to the 4 areas of evidence looked for by the Care Commission.

Aiming High Scotland was launched in 1999 and as costs had remained unchanged for the past ten years we have had to implement price increases, please note new prices:

Aiming High Pack: £75

Portfolio Assessment: £600 + assessor's travel costs

Mentoring support is also available- please contact for costs. (NB Awards for All may be used to cover the costs of participating in Aiming High Scotland and a number of local networks have funded groups by this means.)

For further information please email: finlay@soscn.org

SOSCN Seminar- March 2009

SOSCN held a seminar focusing on the Early Years Framework in the COSLA offices, Edinburgh at the end of March. Irene Audain provided an overview of the Framework and what this could mean to the out of school care sector. Presentations on the implementation of the Framework were given by Anncris Roberts, Policy Manager- Early Years Framework Team, Scottish Government and Robert Nichol, Team Leader- Children & Young People, COSLA; Bryan Livingstone, Development Manager Children's Services, Care Commission; and Anne Brady, Chief Executive, Care and Learning Alliance (CALA) provided an overview of the integrated approach taken to supporting the early years (including out of school care) in the Highlands.

Facilitated discussion groups provided the delegates with the opportunity to discuss the Early Years Framework: what it means to out of school care in general and how, as a sector, services are recognised and supported at local levels.

Overall the message given by COSLA and the government was that out of school care services and networks must show how they can support the aims and targets set out in the Framework at a local level. Furthermore there are not expectations that new services should be created instead, develop the ones already in existence. A report from the seminar will soon be available on our website: www.soscn.org

SOSCN Out of School Care Workers Survey 2009

The deadline for completed surveys has now passed and we are pleased to have had an even bigger response than last year and have received 375 responses. SOSCN would like to thank all who participated and helped disperse the survey. The results of the survey will be presented at **Working Together**, our annual conference **on the 12th June**.

Scottish Out of School Care Network Conference 2009



“Working Together. *The importance of positive relationships between schools & out of school care services”*

Friday 12th June, Radisson Hotel, Argyle Street, Glasgow

CONFERENCE FOCUS

This conference will look at the issues surrounding relationships between out of school care services and schools. Presentations will focus on the issues from national and international perspectives with opportunities to hear about examples of good practice. Facilitated discussion groups will allow delegates to discuss ideas and provide input to an action document designed to highlight, improve and develop relationships and common goals between out of school care services and schools at local and national levels.

The conference is being chaired by Bronwen Cohen, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland and the overall conference will also contribute to two programmes being led by **Children in Scotland: Working It Out** and **Working for Inclusion**. Keynote presentations will be provided by representatives from Learning +Teaching Scotland, Aberdeen & Glasgow City Councils, Professor Pat Petrie and Dr Jennifer Cartmel. Examples of good practice will also be provided by two out of school care services and primary schools.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Out of school care providers; out of school care development and support staff; local out of school care networks; heads of education; headteachers; teachers; qualification providers; school managers; policy and decision makers; inspection and registration staff; anyone with an interest in out of school care and schools.

Delegate Fees

	Members	Non-members
Local Authority/ Statutory Organisations etc	£129	£169
Early Bird Offer- book before 24th April	£119	£159
Out of School Care Providers	£109	£129
Early Bird Offer- book before 24th April	£99	£119

For further information go to www.soscn.org/events.html or contact Finlay on 0141 564 1284 or finlay@soscn.org