



Issue 11 – June 2015



Welcome to the June edition of the Additional and Complex Needs newsletter from College Development Network (CDN).

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 feel free to share this newsletter with colleagues who would find it of interest.

College Development Network (CDN) Training

Professional Development Award in Inclusiveness

A degree-level, recognised qualification will be available to study entirely online from September 2015.

The award features sessions on strategies to facilitate inclusive learning opportunities plus an intensive element dedicated to developing needs assessment practice.

The unique course is suitable for needs assessors, assistive technology specialists, lecturers with an interest in supporting students with additional needs, access and inclusion co-ordinators, or staff with a responsibility to implement inclusiveness in a college or university.

With engaging online resources and regular live interactive presentations from a range of experienced practitioners, the PDA and the individual units are accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and benchmarked at level 9 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Study options include:

- PDA Inclusiveness
- Facilitate Inclusive Learning Strategies
- Needs Assessment Practice



Contact the course tutor, Carol Boyle at carol.boyle@cdn.ac.uk to find out more about course content, fees and how to apply.

College Development Network (CDN) Events

Access and Inclusion Network Meeting – 22 June 2015

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 extensive June agenda includes:

- 1. CDN project update – PDA Inclusiveness, Equalities, Student Carers**
Geraldine Ratcliffe and Sandy MacLean
- 2. An outcome based approach for using extended learning support funds**
Fiona Burns and Kelly Parry, SFC
- 3. Jisc update**
Margaret McKay, Jisc
- 4. Interested in an assistive technology network?**
Claire Guthrie and Elaine Argue, City of Glasgow College
- 5. Equalities monitoring form (Easy read)**
Lorna Peggie, CDN
- 6. Supporting education class rep training**
Stephanie Millar, SPARQS
- 7. Corporate parenting and what it means for colleges**
Andree Carruthers, CDN
- 8. Autism toolkit**
Moira Park, National Education Advisor, Scottish Autism

To book a place at the Access and Inclusion Network please [book online here](#).

Other Upcoming Events

CALL Scotland

CALL Scotland is organising two days of free exhibitions and demonstrations of hardware and software for students with additional support needs by a number of Britain's leading suppliers.

The focus of the days is primarily on the use of technology in schools and further and higher education, but the equipment and software on display will be of interest to anybody looking for information on the use of ICT to help people with disabilities.

Location and dates for the exhibitions are:

- **Edinburgh – 10 June 2015**
- **Clydebank – 11 June 2015**

Suppliers will describe their key products in timetabled sessions and there will also be short presentations by staff from CALL Scotland and local practitioners on how they use technology to aid inclusion in schools and colleges.

The days are free to attend and run from 0845 until 1600 (1730 for Edinburgh).

Further reading and information on how to book can be found on the [ICT and Inclusion website](#).

Lead Scotland National Conference

‘Can We Make Things Better? YES WE CAN!!’ Delivering positive outcomes for disabled & disadvantaged learners.

The Lead Scotland National Conference will be held on Thursday 11 June 2015, Queen Margaret University.

The conference will be of interest to anyone working with learners with disabilities and additional support needs (including staff working directly with learners and those in management/coordination roles) in the following fields:

- Colleges and universities
- CLD providers
- Careers advisers/guidance staff
- Employers and work placement providers
- Employment support agencies
- Voluntary sector support organisations
- Local authority staff
- NHS boards

For further information or to book a place please refer to [Lead website](#)

SQA

Developments at National 1 and 2

From the start of session 2015–16, SQA will provide a suite of 29 Freestanding Units including 13 Employment Skills Units. The unit specifications for these freestanding units were published at the end of January 2015 and Unit Support Notes and Unit Assessment Support packs (including one exemplar assessment activity) will be available for centres to deliver from August 2015.

You now have the ability to download all National 1 and 2 documents as well as information on National 1 and 2 Awards from the [National 1 and 2 web page](#).



Looked After Young People and Care Leavers

Corporate Parenting Update

As you'll be aware colleges now have a corporate parent responsibility under the terms of the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) Act 2014. The publishing of the guidance on Part 9 'Corporate Parenting' has been delayed until late June; we will make sure you are made aware of it once it is published.

For more information on corporate parenting see the links below. Corporate parenting will also be on the agenda at CDN's next Access and Inclusion Forum on Monday 22 June 1000 to 1300.

www.celcis.org

<http://www.whocaresscotland.org/professionals/corporate-parenting/>

The Buttle Quality Mark Legacy

The Buttle legacy group has now been disbanded and Celcis (Centre for excellence for looked after children in Scotland) is taking this work forward in collaboration with a number of organisations, including CDN. The next steps will be announced on Monday 08 June at the 'The Buttle UK Quality Mark for Care Leavers: its legacy and the way forward', an event which is being held at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow.

Enabling Student Carers

Just a reminder that resources supporting your work with this group of students can be located at:

<http://www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/access/enabling-student-carer>

Every college now has a single point of contact for carers, many thanks to those of you from that list that completed and returned the short 'survey' we emailed out. We are using the feedback to plan an event in August for staff working to enable student carers to access and succeed in college.

An update on this work will be provided at CDN's annual Guidance Conference on Wednesday 10 June

If you have any questions about the information above please contact:

sandy.maclean@cdn.ac.uk

andree.carruthers@cdn.ac.uk

Excellent Practice at Glasgow Kelvin College

Supporting Young Learners with Additional Support Needs Through Outdoor Learning

Glasgow Kelvin College has worked with a local charity (Common Knowledge UK) to develop and deliver a programme utilising the woodland community area at the Springburn campus. The programme supports young learners with additional support needs to develop their essential skills through engagement with outdoor and cross-curricular learning. In partnership with external agencies, college staff across a range of curriculum areas help learners to develop skills in gardening, popular culture, and environmental sustainability. The programme embeds a strong focus on developing all four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence. Attainment of qualifications is embedded within the delivery, and learners achieve skills for learning, life and work through collaborative working and peer learning. During the programme, learners develop self-confidence and awareness of a range of subject areas including horticulture, photography, art and design, and fashion.

All learners gain confidence in working independently and develop greater awareness of their rights as individuals. Learners achieve more widely through engagement in external competitions, display of their artwork within the college and on-going development of the garden. The development of the college's woodland garden is enhancing the local community. Recently, the group entered a national gardening competition and was awarded a silver medal at the Scottish Horticultural Show.

Excellent Practice at Glasgow Clyde College

Building a Positive Cross-college Culture: College Festival of Sport

The college took full advantage of the interest generated by the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 to hold a three-day Glasgow Clyde College games event for learners with additional support for learning (ASL) needs. The Festival of Sport took place in May 2014 and involved ten competitive sporting events, many of which were new to the learners. A particularly notable aspect was that it involved large numbers of mainstream learners in supporting their ASL colleagues throughout the project. One hundred and eighty learners and several staff took part from across the whole college.

The project offered ASL learners a challenging opportunity to organise, with support, a major and complex event. This had a highly positive impact on their skills development, self-esteem, motivation and sense of achievement. The mainstream learners who supported the event enhanced greatly their understanding of the capabilities of their colleagues. The college ensured that the event mirrored real-life practice, which provided a valuable, live learning opportunity for many learners. For example, dance learners choreographed and performed the opening ceremony, sports coaching learners helped to coach participants and manage the competitions and hospitality learners worked alongside professional catering staff. Media and journalism learners reported on the event through the college's radio station and blogs and also recorded the event on camera. The Glasgow Clyde College Student Association supported the event and local schools were invited to view it, making it a valuable community enterprise.

The Festival of Sport was highly successful, enjoyable and celebratory. The event had a particularly strong influence on building a positive cross-campus culture in the first year following merger and helped develop constructive, new relationships across the college. The event also increased awareness of health and wellbeing within the college and demonstrated well the college's inclusive ethos. The college plans to continue this good work by holding an annual inter-campus sports event.

ICT

New Initiative

Interested in assistive technology? Need a space in which to share and learn about the digital revolution in education with practitioners? Unsure whether to go for freeware or paid applications? Need to know which apps to use in supporting students with additional support needs?

City of Glasgow with the support of CDN and Jisc are keen to bring together colleagues from across the FE sector to explore new and existing technologies. This will be a practitioner led group which aims to meet the needs of those working in colleges with assistive technology.

Claire Guthrie and Elaine Argue from City of Glasgow College will share their ideas at the Access and Inclusion Network meeting in Stirling on Monday 22 June. Book a place [here](#)

Jisc

The Jisc logo consists of the word "Jisc" in white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange square.

Mobile Technologies to Support Inclusive Practice

In May's edition of the Jisc Scotland Newsletter we told you about our [mobile learning guide](#), and highlighted the work about to take place to develop phase two of this info kit. This phase will focus specifically on examples of inclusive mobile learning taking place in FE and HE across the UK. The deadline for submissions has passed, and we've received some excellent nominations from across the country, thanks to all of you who contributed. Work will be ongoing between now and autumn to develop and share these examples of inclusive mobile practice with you. In the meantime if you are interested in learning more you can read the Jisc blog [Are you using mobile technologies to support inclusive practice?](#) Watch this space!



Using Technology to Enhance Inclusion

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) took place on Thursday May 21 May 2015. The goal of this community driven initiative was to raise awareness about digital accessibility. As a tribute to [Global Accessibility Awareness Day](#), and in a bid to highlight some useful hints and tips, Jisc Scotland shared guidance and advice about the ways that technology can be used to enhance inclusive practice.



We shared information about [Load2learn](#) and how to take advantage of the accessibility features of Adobe Reader, including advice on:

- How to change the document colours
- Listening to PDF documents being read out loud
- Magnifying the text
- Automatically scrolling text.

We are sure you'll agree that many of these features would be beneficial for everyone, not just for people with disabilities! Have a look at the [accessibility of Adobe Reader video](#) and see what you think.

We also promoted a video guide called '[Make Technology Work for Everyone: introducing digital accessibility](#)' created by [Fix the Web](#) in collaboration with [Get IT Together/Citizens Online](#). This short video provides an introduction to digital accessibility and highlights reasons why digital inclusion is important. In addition it offers some really user friendly accessibility advice and guidance for web developers and content creator – in fact for anyone who produces information which will be available online!

Digital Exam Formats for Print-impaired Learners

Between 10-13% of people in the UK have a [print impairment](#), which means they have difficulty accessing text-based resources. That's a whole lot of people who aren't able to comfortably access educational resources in the traditional way. Thanks to the development of digital learning and digital examinations things are changing for the better.

How you actually go about making 'digital' the normal way of learning needs some thought, as there are wider implications for teaching and learning. Technology enhanced learning is vital for supporting accessibility and inclusion, but they are also good for all learners. Alistair McNaught, Subject Specialist for inclusion at Jisc explores this subject in his article [Take advantage of digital exam formats for print-impaired learners](#) which features on the most recent Jisc blog. Alistair's article offers guidance on accessible digital exams for assessment centres (including advice for senior managers, examination officers, tutors and disability support). He also provides guidance for learners, parents and carers.

[Margaret McKay](#), Subject Specialist (accessibility and inclusion) Jisc.

Digital Exams and Assessments

Scheduling and providing readers and scribes for exams and assessments is a challenging part of the support role. Providing a digital alternative requires careful planning but can be an empowering experience for the learner.

Further information about using SQA exam papers and assessments, including extensive advice on how to set up, install and use digital exam papers, can be accessed from the [CALL Scotland website](#).

A training event will be held at CALL on Thursday 03 September 2015. To find out more follow the link [how to use digital exams and assessments](#).

Free iPad Training Online ... and more

Produced by Richard Hirstwood, these video clips provide comprehensive training on how to get the most out of an iPad when working with students with complex learning needs. Whether you are a beginner or a more skilled user you will find something of interest.

They include:

- iPads in education for beginners
- the iPad settings
- the accessibility options
- iPads with screens, projectors and TVs
- iPads with external switches
- iPads for visual learners and visual loss
- iPads for sound learners and hearing loss

You will also be able to access an extensive list of apps that he has used in learning and teaching from [Hirstwood website](#).



Free Stuff

New Numeracy and Mathematics Hub Launched

A new virtual learning environment for education practitioners has been launched this week to help improve numeracy and mathematics across Scotland. The National Numeracy and Mathematics Hub will provide an innovative resource for practitioners from early learning and childcare settings through to the senior phase, where they can develop their professional learning and share good practice online. It has been developed with practitioners in mind to make it an accessible and user-friendly resource where they can share their work with colleagues from across Scotland, as well as develop their own learning and teaching practice.

Please note you'll require your Glow Connect log-in details to access the hub.

Employability Skills

You may have already had a glimpse of some of the video clips produced by Barclays Bank. They form part of their Lifeskills initiative and may be useful as an introduction to lessons about preparing for a [job interview](#).

SEN Press e-books for Teenagers and Young People

SEN press have produced an iPad app providing access to their series of age appropriate books for teenagers and young people. You may already be familiar with the printed versions which deal with life skills and everyday experiences of young people with learning difficulties. With the app, in addition to reading the books, learners can hear the book being read and record their own version as they read. You can also create 'hot spots' for sound effects, reading prompts and questions to check understanding.

Download the free SEN Press app from the Apple App Store (click on the icon on your iPad or iPhone) - and type SEN Press in 'search'. Click on the app, then on FREE and INSTALL. The SEN Press app will install on your device, and includes one free story: 'Keeping Money Safe' from the [Making Sense of Money series](#)

You can also download a free e-book that can be used for whiteboard presentations. 'Matt Gets Wise,' from the [Teen Issues](#) series, deals with personal hygiene issues for teenage boys.

Quick Links

[Past ACN newsletters](#)
[Boardmaker resources for National 1](#)