

Because we all need friends and family.

Positive social networks:

- prevent homelessness
- promote mental health and well-being
- create inclusive communities - and make us feel good about ourselves

Merry Christmas!

Please take just a few minutes before you head off for your festivities (or on your return) to glance at this edition of the newsletter where you will find information on:

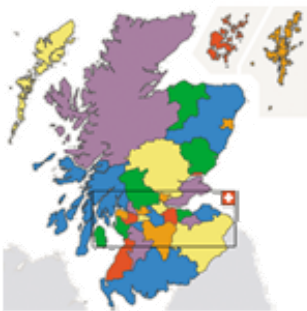
- Launch of the **new online database**
- A reminder about the **prize draw**
- **Consultation** on Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland
- Successful Project Development – **a Toolkit** launched at the SCSH conference
- Social Networks Training Pack – **PowerPoint resources** for trainers
- The Financial Case for Prevention - **The costs of tenancy failure** briefing paper

As usual if there is anything you would like included in the newsletter or a contribution you would like to make please email me to let me know

lesley.stenhouse@scottishsocialnetworks.org www.scottishsocialnetworks.org.

Best Wishes for a successful New Year

Lesley (Lesley Stenhouse, Forum Coordinator)



The Scottish Social Networks **online database** will be launched by Minister for Communities & Sport Stewart Maxwell on 29th January 2008 at The Rock Trust in Edinburgh. The database will map interest in social networks and project delivery across Scotland. The database will provide a useful resource which will enable you to refine your search to look for contact details of organisations of interest in your local area. Make sure your organisation is on the database by going to www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/sign_up

Join us at 10am on the 29th January for coffee and cake and a demonstration before the formal launch at 11am. See www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/events for details.

Prize Draw! The Minister will make the draw and announce the winner of the £100 M&S voucher at the launch of the online database on 29th January. We emailed you all with details of how to enter the prize draw back on the 30th November. If you did not receive the email and wish to enter the prize draw to have a chance to win £100 of Marks and Spencer vouchers, please contact us on info@scottishsocialnetworks.org and we will resend the email. For those of you who have received our email but have not yet updated your contact details online, make sure you do it soon so that you don't miss out on your chance to enter the prize draw!

£100
YOUR M&S



Events are planned for the end of February or beginning of March to give you the opportunity to discuss "TOWARDS A MENTALLY FLOURISHING SCOTLAND: THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT IN SCOTLAND 2008-11" a discussion paper published by The Scottish Government, Healthcare Policy & Strategy Directorate, Mental Health Division. The events will give you an

opportunity to input your views on shared objectives and actions for 2008-11, considering particularly those with weak social networks and at risk of homelessness or otherwise at risk of social exclusion. Dates and venues will be emailed early next year. <http://www.wellscotland.info/news/item.php?id=220>



SCOTTISH
SOCIAL
NETWORKS



Training Pack Power Point Presentation Following on from the success of the Scottish Social Networks training pack and demand from those using more high-tech equipment, we have formatted the overhead projector slides into a power point presentation and the training joining instructions into a PDF document. The power point version is available on the website, www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/events and will make holding Social Networks training workshops even easier. The joining instructions will follow shortly so keep checking the website for updates!

Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, said: “Strong social networks can play a key part in preventing homelessness and breaking the cycle of repeat homelessness. **“I am certain Scottish Social Networks’ Toolkit will prove to be an invaluable resource for public bodies and other organisations with an interest in helping homeless or newly-housed people stabilise their lives and rebuild their confidence.** “Feeling valued as part of a social network is essential for everyone’s wellbeing – and especially for people feeling isolated because of homelessness.”



The Scottish Social Networks Toolkit was launched on the 8th November 2007 at the Scottish Council Single Homeless

Conference and is designed to make it easier for local authorities, voluntary organisations and others to develop successful mentoring, befriending and mediation projects which will help prevent homelessness. To get your copy e-mail info@scottishsocialnetworks.org, phone 0131 524 9869 or download it at www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/news .



GRDSS Befriending scheme was launched with mince pies and Christmas cheer on 13th December at their offices in the Crowngate Business Centre. GRDSS Befriending is “committed to preventing homelessness through building positive relationships”. Their aim is to provide volunteering opportunities for the City of Glasgow, strengthen the social networks of people who have

experienced homelessness and reduce the number of homeless presentations to Glasgow City Council. If you (or someone you know) are homeless or have experienced homelessness or if you want a really exciting volunteering opportunity, then GRDSS Befriending is offering you the chance to get involved. For more information contact Allan Clark on 0141 550 7140 or email him at allan.clark@grdss.org

SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR SINGLE HOMELESS

Scottish Council Single homeless have launched a briefing paper **Tenancy failure – How much does it cost** based on the work mentioned in the last newsletter undertaken by Julie Hunter, North Lanarkshire Council and Sharon Dickens, Scottish Churches Housing Action. The briefing paper is available on www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/research or from SCSH.



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