

Scottish Social Networks Newsletter

March 09

Because we all need friends and family.

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

Welcome to the Spring Addition of the SSN Newsletter. Included in this issue is;

- **Review of SSN Training Tools and new training dates from SACRO and Shelter**
- **Scottish Government Prevention Guidance**
- **SHIEN**

If you'd like to contribute to the next issue please email: info@scottishsocialnetworks.org

Best wishes,

Lesley (Lesley Stenhouse, Forum Coordinator)



This is a very exciting time for all here at SSN as we develop our training tools, including the pack, toolkit and website. Our trainer, Allison Calder, is currently building on the Training material and it has been interesting to see how this has developed. Those who had taken part in the training felt that 'follow-up' training sessions would be useful. These sessions allow participants to feedback and reflect, and to address any barriers that have prevented the training from being delivered or implemented in practise. These workshops also offer an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas and

experiences of Social Networks, and for professional networking and partnership building.

We also have plans this year to develop an online forum for trainers. This will create an online community allowing people to share their experiences of the training, and to offer support and advice to their peers. We are looking to you to give advice on what works (and what doesn't!) and how you've personalised the training for your organisation or service user group. We would really appreciate if you could email any ideas or developed training tools which you have successfully used to info@scottishsocialnetworks.org. This material will be posted on our website www.scottishsocialnetworks.org and used to create additional 'Trainers notes', which can be printed off and added to your training packs. We are also looking for case studies and examples of good practise to be made available online. So, if you have any examples that you feel would be helpful to other trainers please email to info@scottishsocialnetworks.org

All users should have now received our Training Pack, Toolkit and Website review form and it would be really helpful to hear your views. These forms are also available from a link on the homepage at

www.scottishsocialnetworks.org. We are holding a prize draw for all those who complete a website feedback form. **To be in with a chance of winning £50 worth of vouchers, kindly donated by John Lewis, simply submit your completed form to info@scottishsocialnetworks.org** For information on the tools available, or to give your feedback please email info@scottishsocialnetworks.org



We are very pleased to welcome SACRO to the Scottish Social Networks training family. They are delivering the training in Glasgow on the 2nd June 2009. For more information and for a booking form please visit www.sacro.org.uk and follow the Consultancy and Training link or call 0131 624 7270.



Shelter have also arranged a Social Networks Training day, due to take place on the 8th of September 2009 in Glasgow. For more information or to book visit www.scotland.shelter.org.uk and follow the professional resources link. Alternatively call 084745152465 or email scotlandevents@shelter.org.uk



To coincide with the commencement of Section 11 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, the Scottish Government is in the process of finalising homelessness prevention guidance, which will supplement the prevention chapter already contained within the Code of Guidance. The guidance has been developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders, including COSLA, and has been informed by a panel of advisors with experience in the homelessness field. Local authorities, RSLs, and health services, as well as voluntary sector organisations delivering advice and support to homeless people, will find the guidance helpful. The Scottish Housing Regulator will refer to the guidance during future regulation and inspection activity to ensure that an increased emphasis is placed on early and integrated interventions, the provision of appropriate housing options, tenancy sustainment measures and a personalised approach to providing successful and sustainable housing outcomes for people.

In other exciting news; The Scottish Government has funded GHN to develop and manage the new national network, SHIEN. The network is targeted at all those within the homelessness sector, and related, at all levels and within all services that recognize the value of involving and empowering the people who use homelessness services.



SHIEN will be administered electronically through a website, a newsletter and an email group, and thematic meetings held twice a year with thematic reports following up. In addition an annual specially convened conference will ensure all parties are updated and the learning shared. This Network will share experience of effective perception, prejudice and awareness raising through a national 'Resource Exchange' of materials, opportunities and guidance developed as a direct result of service user involvement activity.

A new and innovative toolkit has been created in consultation with service users and providers, and offers good practice guidelines which can assist any organisation with a stake in homelessness to understand adopt and implement the most appropriate methods of involvement and participation which will benefit both the service users and the service. GHN will also be offering Involvement and Empowerment training to support the toolkit.

In February, the SHIEN Advisory Group met for the first time. Members of the group bring a wealth of experience to the advisory group from service user, service provider, voluntary, statutory and Scottish Government perspectives. The groups remit is to provide an advisory role to the Scottish Government on Service User Involvement Policy and Practice for people affected by exclusion or multiple exclusion. For more information contact Stephanie Plotnikoff splotnikoff@ghn.org.uk or call 0141 276 4825



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