

# Scottish Social Networks Newsletter

Sept' 08

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

Please take a few minutes to read over this edition of the newsletter where you will find information and the odd cry for help on:

- Scottish Social Networks **training partnership** with Shelter
- **Help** - do you know how to use **Netdraw and UCINET** software?
- Do you **assess the social networks** of your clients?
- **The Rock Trust** Inaugural Lecture
- An update on the **Scottish Social Networks Training**

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](mailto:lesley.stenhouse@scottishsocialnetworks.org)

Best Wishes,

**Lesley** (Lesley Stenhouse, Forum Coordinator)

## Shelter

### **Training partnership with Shelter** **(Still places available on 28<sup>th</sup> October)**

Since the spring we have been working with a number of organisations to deliver social networks training and train trainers and managers to cascade the training across their organisation. Following on from that **Shelter** have joined with us to deliver Scottish Social Networks training, including it in their programme from this autumn. Two dates are scheduled at present - Monday 22 September and Tuesday 28 October from 10am and 4pm at Shelter Training, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh. There are still a few places available for 28<sup>th</sup> October.

The training will examine ways of extending and strengthening social networks and is invaluable for those who work with people who experience social exclusion and require support to take control of their lives and move on. This session is particularly designed for housing support staff but is still relevant to all working in health or social care.

For further details please complete the booking form attached in a PDF file. Please note completed booking forms should be returned to **Shelter Scotland**.

**Help needed** - Do you know how to use **Netdraw** and **UCINET** software?



**scottishdevelopmentcentre**  
for mental health

If you do Pippa Coutts from Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health would like to hear from you. They are mapping employability networks using a social mapping framework of nodes and relationships (lines between the nodes). They have a matrix of relationships (and a hand drawn, complex flip chart map) and want to use that data to draw a map on the computer, with software called Netdraw and UCINET but need some help with using the software.

**If you can help** contact Pippa on 0131 555 5959 or email [Pippa@sdcmh.org.uk](mailto:Pippa@sdcmh.org.uk)

We'll update you on this interesting work when we know more.



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**Do you assess the social networks of your clients?** As we mentioned in the last edition, in the current climate of scarce resources, the high cost of tenancy failure and 2012 looming ever closer, identifying those at greatest risk and targeting appropriate support is essential. We hope to develop best practice guidelines and a supplement to the training pack. **To date** we have surveyed all the Local Authorities in Scotland to get an idea of which areas undertake assessment of social networks and how those that do go about it. The results were very interesting and several Local Authorities indicated they are keen to work with us on developing social networks assessment in their area. In addition we have had feed back from Bethany Christian Trust, Intergr8 and Rock Trust Networks projects and are starting to get an idea of how voluntary organisations with specialist social networks projects tackle this area. We plan to bring together a small cross sector group to look at the issues and start to identify best practice. If you are interested, whether you work in the public, voluntary or private sector, we would love to hear from you. **Please tell us what your experience is**, contact Lesley on 0131 524 9869 or email [info@scottishsocialnetworks.org](mailto:info@scottishsocialnetworks.org) . We'll keep you updated on progress.



### **Rock Trust inaugural lecture October 14 - fully booked**

The Rock Trust inaugural lecture, *Promoting the resilience of vulnerable young people: messages from research*, will be given by Professor Mike Stein on Tuesday 14 October at 6pm at City Chambers in Edinburgh. There has been high demand for places and the lecture is now fully booked with a waiting list in case anyone has to drop out.

Professor Stein is an expert in his field, and for the past 25 years he has been researching the problems and challenges faced by young people leaving substitute care (foster and residential care) and, recently, the experiences of children and young people living on the streets, running away from care and vulnerable adolescents. He has been consulted by government, local authorities and voluntary organisations on the development of leaving care services nationally and internationally. We will let you know how it goes and feed back the main points to those of you who can't join us.

### **Scottish Social Networks Training Days for Trainers**

The second Scottish Social Networks Training Day designed specifically for **trainers, managers and team leaders** took place on the 11 August at Aberlour Trust in Edinburgh following high demand for places on the previous training day in May. Feedback was again very positive with participants commenting on:



- how confident it made them feel about training their teams in social networks;
- increased knowledge and understanding of social networks;
- stimulated thinking, generating ideas to improve their projects;
- made preventing homelessness an achievable goal.

We hope to hold more training days so keep checking the website for upcoming sessions. [www.scottishsocialnetworks.org](http://www.scottishsocialnetworks.org) and please get in touch to discuss your social networks training needs and how we might help. [info@scottishsocialnetworks.org](mailto:info@scottishsocialnetworks.org)



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A project managed by the Rock Trust Charity No. SC0187085



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