

Scottish Social Networks Newsletter

Aug 10

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

Included in this issue is:

- **BIG Lottery Research Project update**
- **Scottish Housing and Support Conference**
- **Step-Up Project update & case study**
- **SHIEN Shared Solutions Workshop**
- **Befriending Conference**

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you'd like to contribute to the next issue please email info@scottishsocialnetworks.org

Best wishes,

Kerry

Kerry Millar, Scottish Social Networks Administrator

BIG Lottery Research BEYOND Homelessness Update



LOTTERY FUNDED

The survey of Scottish local authorities and housing support services has been sent out and responses are being received. Many thanks to all who have helped out already. The **deadline for responses to the survey is 25th August** so you still have time to contribute!

You can find the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8X65X2F>

After extensive analyses of the responses and one-to-one interviews, Katey will move onto Phase II – an in-depth investigation of 4 pilot areas based round tracking a sample of service users and using service user interviewers.

There is now a [Beyond Homelessness Research page](#) on the Scottish Social Networks webpage where updates of the research and preliminary findings will be posted.



So, clearly, Katey will be kept very busy! If you feel you can give her any useful information, or to volunteer to participate in the research, contact her on: katey.staton@rocktrust.org

Scottish Housing and Support 20th Anniversary Conference

Places are still available at this year's Scottish Housing and Support Conference. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, it continues to bring together the different strands of services across housing, health, social work and the voluntary sector and gets them talking about how best to meet housing and support needs, share best practice and innovation, and most importantly, to listen to the voice of service users. Twenty years on, the country now faces a time of unprecedented budget constraints and challenges. To reflect this, the 2010 Conference has taken as its opening theme Choices, Cuts and Contradictions.

Full programme updates, breakout session details and booking form are on the website at www.joa.co.uk/shasc.html The standard delegate fee is still frozen at last year's price of £120. Some free places for service users are still available, thanks to Scottish Government grant aid. To book contact Norma Jones, SHASC Conference Co-ordinator, Tel: 0131 557 1954, Email shasc@joa.co.uk Web: www.joa.co.uk/shasc.html and further information can be found on the [Scottish Social Networks](#) website.



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Step-Up Project Update



Step-Up has now hit its 5th programme with activities including a Greenworks Recycling Project; bag packing at Tesco and even boat building with the GalGael Trust in Glasgow! This Project remains extremely popular and evaluation has shown it is successful in helping many of the young people develop their social skills, as well as work skills. Further details of the evaluation can be found on the [Scottish Social Networks website](#)

Case Study

Sam moved to Edinburgh to stay on friends' sofas after things became too strained at his family home. He came to the Rock Trust and was referred onto the Step-Up Project where he impressed everyone with his hard work. Through the Project's varied conservation programme, Sam discovered a desire to pursue a career in conservation work. **"I enjoyed Step-Up and it made me realise what I wanted to do as a job and gave me the work experience!"** He agreed to stay on with the Project in a supporting role but once finished Sam's sofa-surfing lifestyle became too difficult for him, he moved to temporary accommodation in his home town and re-built links with his family. He contacted the Job Centre and told them of his experiences in conservation work through Step-Up and they arranged an interview as a Ranger at a country park he had worked with on the Project. The Senior Ranger remembered his hard work when volunteering and his ability to work well in a team and hired him. Sam had an emotional reunion with Step-Up this year when he was part of the Ranger team helping with a Step-Up activity at Springfield Mill. **"Step-Up was great. It definitely gave me the experience I needed to get the job with the Rangers. It was brilliant seeing the group again this year and being able to lead the young people in the task..."**



SHIEN Shared Solutions Workshop



This will take place on Wednesday September 8th at the Murray Arms Hotel in Gatehouse of Fleet. The event is **free** and is for everyone who supports the belief that service user participation is a key component of finding sustainable solutions to homelessness.

See the [poster](#) for this event and further details on the [SHIEN](#) website.

Befriending Network Conference

This will be held on Tuesday, 9th November at St Paul's and St George's, Queen Street, Edinburgh. This year's theme will be **People of Influence** – exploring ways that befrienders and clients are affected and influenced by their experience of befriending. Confirmed speakers so far include: **Professor Robbie Gilligan**, Professor of Social



Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin and **David Robinson OBE**, one of the founders of Community Links and also a leader of the Government's Council on Social Action between 2007 and 2009. For further information please see the [Befriending Network Scotland](#) website.



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