

Information for everyone involved with CLAN  
– learners, tutors, volunteers,  
development workers, managers

## Refreshing The ALNIS Report

The 'Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland' (ALNIS) report was published in 2001 and included 21 recommendations for developing a world class adult literacy and numeracy service.

The Scottish Executive intends to refresh the report to take account of research findings and developments which have taken place over the past five years and a wide range of views.

During Stage 1 of the review (January to April) information was gathered. Stage 2 will be a consultation exercise (May to June), in which those with an interest in adult literacy and numeracy are being invited to contribute.

Stage 3 will be the production of the final report by the end of 2006. Headings of the final report are still to be agreed but will probably include:

- progress to date on original ALNIS report
- lessons learned
- any difficulties to be addressed
- the way forward/new strategy
- new recommendations
- new targets including training standards

Your opinion is important and we would encourage you to come along to the consultation event in Edinburgh on **Wednesday 24 May** to give your views on how the adult literacy and numeracy strategy should be shaped for the future (venue to be confirmed). For a booking form email: [alnisevents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alnisevents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

You will also be able to give your views through web based consultation. There will also be local consultation events for learners.

For more information coming out over the next few months check the CLAN website or phone Ariana Brochet on 0131 270 6072 or fax 0131 270 6074.



**The ALNIS Report focuses on priority groups which include "people with limited initial education especially young adults".**

Agencies across Scotland are responding positively to the issue and examples of new and innovative practice have been identified. An example of the work of the Youth Literacies team is 'Time for Me'. This is a group for young mums which runs on a Tuesday morning at Pentland Community Centre. The group (which has a crèche) aims to enable members to experience new and different ways of learning.

The group began in a taster format with a new topic being studied each week. This method of working has two main advantages. It highlights a number of topic areas in a short amount of time. This is ideal for those who want to begin learning but are not sure what they are interested in. Secondly, each week is different, so if someone does not enjoy one week they know that next week will be different and so dropout rates are much lower than in other groups.

The group has covered a wide variety of topics including relaxation, assertiveness and budgeting. They have also completed a certificate in children's first aid.

Having had a chance to learn about lots of topics and develop their confidence, the group decided to concentrate on two topics in more detail. These were making story sacks and healthy eating. Using these topics as a vehicle, four members of the group are working towards SVQs (Scottish Vocational Qualifications) in Communications.

The group is always looking for new members and will be working on new topics next term – if you know of young mums that would be interested in joining please contact Jennifer Scougall.

For more information and to meet the Youth Literacies team, see inside ...





**South  
Edinburgh**

### Stephen Hamilton

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Base: South Bridge Resource Centre,  
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I'm from Belfast but came to Edinburgh for university in 1999 and have been here ever since. I'm also the token male of the Youth Literacies team!

I am currently involved in setting up a core skills drop-in for young people in the city centre area to compliment the group that is already up and running in Gilmerton Community Centre.

I am also developing group work with youth agencies in the South Edinburgh area such as Canongate Youth Project (CYP) and Streetwork Edinburgh, as well as working on a project with homeless young people, in partnership with Four Square (Scotland) in their hostels.

I am interested in sports, particularly football, and I am keen to develop embedded literacy projects using sport and coaching awards. I would also be interested in running photography projects with young people in their communities.



**West  
Edinburgh**

### Carol Tuzan

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Base: Sighthill Community Centre, 1A  
Sighthill Wynd, Edinburgh EH11 4BL

I have recently returned to Edinburgh after taking a year out to teach English in Turkey. This has inspired me to work with young ESOL learners in Edinburgh. Prior to this, I worked for over seven years in Community Education based at Woods Youth Centre in Wester Hailes.

At the moment I am working with a young parents' group - PACT (Parents and Children Together) - researching the opportunities for young people in North Sighthill. The group have nearly completed the research project and will produce a leaflet with their findings.

I am also developing a Girls' Dance group in conjunction with Sighthill Library. The group are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and are planning a dance show.

I am involved in the Careers Scotland alternative curriculum group and will be linking in with a health literacies worker and a possible young dads' group.



**East  
Edinburgh**

### Isabel MacRae

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Base: Castlebrae CLD Base, Castlebrae  
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I am beginning to develop work with young people referred by youth workers, support workers, careers and the youth justice team as well as with dyslexic young people. I am developing work with a youth club and hope to develop work with young parents and partner organisations working with at risk young people.

I am currently involved in a group on Monday evenings at Nelson Hall Community Centre which brings together young people who have dyslexia from across the city. They meet once a week to find out more about dyslexia, share their experiences and the coping strategies which work for them. They are currently producing their first newsletter, which is due out in early May, as well as a short video.



**Strategic  
Planning**

### Ann Bradwell

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Base: Community Learning & Development,  
Wellington Court, 10 Waterloo Place,  
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

My role is to support the work of the area youth literacies workers through undertaking research, developing and piloting resources and increasing capacity through training. This strategic role will enable the development of effective practice and support new ways of working. I will be regularly evaluating practice to demonstrate the impact and benefits of youth literacies provision.

## YOUTH LITERACIES TEAM

There are five area Youth Literacies workers in Edinburgh supported by Ann Bradwell who is working in Strategic Planning. The team works with 12-25 year olds with a focus on the 16-19 years age range. We aim to support and develop all kinds of innovative literacies work with young people. If you have an idea for a group or would like to investigate opportunities for partnership working, please contact the worker based in your area of the city.





**South West**  
Edinburgh

## Jennifer Scougall

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Base: Pentland Community Centre,  
Oxgangs Brae, Edinburgh EH13 9LS

I am currently working with five groups. Since starting in February I have worked alongside Ann Bradwell with the 'Time for Me' group in Pentland Community Centre and I hope to start another group for young parents within the next few weeks.

I recently started working with two existing youth groups in Juniper Green and Currie and over the last few weeks the groups have been working on a web design project around body image and marketing.

I am also working with a group of young people with learning disabilities in Pentland Community Centre. This group is currently working towards gaining a Caledonian Award and I am hoping to develop another of these groups in the Currie and Juniper Green area by the end of April.

Some ideas for new groups identified by young people are the driving theory test, music, computers, environmental issues and sports, as well as a girls' group in the Juniper Green area.

I also hope to work in partnership with organisations, agencies and projects already running in the South West and I am currently developing an 'Alternative to P.E.' group in Firrhill High School.



**North and**  
Leith

## Ruth Nay

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Base: Pennywell House, 1b Pennywell  
Gardens, Edinburgh EH4 4NX

My name is Ruth Nay (apparently my Hobbit name is Esmerelda Brownlock of Overhill). I like my job because it is about people, their skills and their ideas and I think that you can't separate literacies from people.

Once when I was about ten I lost 'The Bidding Prayers' that you read out in church. They were found years later jammed at the back of my mum's fireplace. I made up 'The Bidding Prayers' from what I could remember from the structure of the sentences.

I suppose that was my first cloze exercise. I got hauled off the altar pretty sharpish by the third prayer!

I think literacies with young people is interesting because it's about knowledge, fun and I think also reducing the stress people feel around these skills.

Since starting in my new post I have been supporting the OOSHLA (Out of School Hours Learning Activities) funded library projects in Muirhouse and applying for Community Safety Fund money to continue this work.

I am also supporting two young people on a one-to-one basis and planning a study support group for young people at risk of dropping out of college.



## Moving On - Thur 25 May

2.00 - 6.00 pm, Main Council Room,  
The City Chambers, High Street

This CLAN guidance event will be run on a drop-in basis so learners can pop in anytime between 2.00 - 6.00 pm.

There will be a choice of themed activities which will be run as short workshops which learners can opt into when they arrive, e.g. a fun game looking at making choices, a taster of a Scottish Literature course and finding out about college.

Focussing on the themes of learning, working and volunteering, the event will include a fantastic mix of small group activities, presentations from learners, information stalls and video.

Some of the organisations attending include Further Education Colleges, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), Careers Scotland and the Adult Education Programme.

### What tutors can do

Talk about the event in your groups, encourage learners to come together to find out more about moving onto other learning options, tell learners where it is and how to get there.

Tutors can also find out what's happening in other organisations so that they can pass information onto learners who can't come long.

## City-wide group tutor meetings

There were two meetings this month at South Bridge Resource Centre of sessional ALN tutors discussing the new rate of pay and conditions in our contracts.

We looked at ways forward to clarify our roles and discussed Dundee Council's approach of employing tutors on .5 and .25 contracts.

If you are interested in finding out more you can join the ALN tutors' forum set up by Lorraine Borwick at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alntutors> or speak to your union rep or line manager.

**It would be great to have more tutor communication, support and sharing of ideas!**

For more information or to send feedback sheets, contact Lorraine Borwick at the CLAN office.  
Tel: 0131 270 6072. Email: [lorraine@clanedinburgh.org](mailto:lorraine@clanedinburgh.org)

## Research Bites

'The Evaluation of the Scottish Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy' was published on 20 March 2006.

### Main Findings

The clearest pathway into provision that existing learners identified was better local and national publicity that is directed at changing the negative public image of ALN and reducing the stigma attached to being an ALN learner.

Learners' perceptions of the quality of learning and teaching they received were very positive with an over 90% satisfaction rate in respect of the learning environment, the quality of the tuition and the social environment.

Tutors were equally positive about the impact of the ALN strategy on whom, how and what they taught, but were concerned about provision for guidance and support and the lack of staff development for part-time and volunteer tutors.

The quality of guidance and support received by learners was weak at entry to and during the learning process particularly in respect of learners' lack of awareness of their Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Increased self-confidence was the most dominant outcome of engagement in ALN learning reported on by the respondents and this acted as a key to opening up opportunities in learners' personal, family, public, education and working lives. Engaging in learning enhances social capital through increasing social and economic activity leading to wider benefits for the individual, their community and society.

Summary report: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/20102218/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/20102218/0)  
Full report: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/20102141/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/20102141/0)



## ALN Curriculum Framework

You've probably all seen them around. A lot of you will have had them posted out, given to you at training events or come across them at the CLAN Resource Base. Yes, it's the newest big spiral-bound document from Learning Connections - 'An Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework for Scotland'.

When I first got mine, I was quite excited. I guess that was mainly because I had been involved in several consultation meetings and wasn't sure what Learning Connections would make of it all. When it finally arrived I thought, 'Oh well, this is different'.

Visually appealing, practical and lots of resources for planning and assessment as well! It also sums up the 'Scottish Approach' to adult literacies really well.

This is a document that's here for us to use. Still, it's more interesting and fun to explore it with colleagues than sitting at a desk by yourself (unless this is really the way you prefer to do things!).

## TRAINING EVENTS

So far, CLAN has offered two Curriculum Framework introductory training events. Another four events have been planned for May and June:

### General introductory workshops for practitioners:

Thursday 11 May 10.00am-1.00pm  
and Tuesday 6 June 4.30-7.00pm

### Planning & assessment workshop for practitioners (identified as a 'training need' by previous participants on introductory training)

Tuesday 13 June 4.30-7.00pm

### Overview for staff who manage and organise programmes and others who mainly 'oversee' provision

Thursday 15 June 10.30am-12.30pm



## REGISTRATION

To register for the workshops, email: [training@clanedinburgh.org](mailto:training@clanedinburgh.org) or call Ariana on 0131 270 6072 by **Monday 8 May**.

## WORKSHOPS

If you'd like a local general introductory workshop for your area or workplace, contact:

- Claudia Esslinger 0131 200 2000, [claudia.esslinger@educ.edin.gov.uk](mailto:claudia.esslinger@educ.edin.gov.uk)
- Gillian Lawrence 0131 270 6070, [gillian@clanedinburgh.org](mailto:gillian@clanedinburgh.org)

*Claudia Esslinger*

## Do you need tutors?

There are over 30 group tutors, several interviewed recently, who have been accepted into the CLAN/City of Edinburgh Council **Adult Literacies Group Tutor Pool**. They are looking for sessional or more substantial pieces of work.

Specialist interests literacies tutors mention are:

- inclusion support • creative writing
- numeracy • youth literacies

For a copy of the tutor list email: [ariana@clanedinburgh.org](mailto:ariana@clanedinburgh.org)

The next Beans will be out in May. If you would like to contribute, send your items to Fiona Holmes, CLAN Edinburgh, 1-3 Canon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5HE. Tel: 0131 270 6073. Fax: 0131 270 6074. Email: [fiona@clanedinburgh.org](mailto:fiona@clanedinburgh.org) Web: [www.clanedinburgh.org](http://www.clanedinburgh.org)

**MORE BYTES**