

SUSE Ebulletin March 09

www.susescotland.co.uk

See the potential within



In this issue:

- SUSE Board Membership * Website Training Session
- SUSE Planning Day * Scottish Accessible Information Forum Training Courses
- More Jobs How? Conference
- Fife Employability Network Job Vacancy Circulation Service

SUSE Board Changes

Two key Board Members have stepped down from the SUSE Board due to pressure of work and other commitments. At the end of January, Alan Weaver stepped down from the post of Chair of SUSE, and Cath Hurrell stepped down as Depute Chair. Anne Riddell had also stepped down as a SUSE Director at the end of last year. All SUSE Members would like to thank them for the significant time, effort and energy they have committed to SUSE in the past. At the recent Board Planning Meeting, Bruce Brodie proposed Callum MacGregor as Acting Chair. This was seconded by Margaret Linton. John Sutherland proposed Bruce Brodie as Acting Vice Chair, seconded by Margaret Linton. Margaret Linton proposed Claire McIldowie as Minute Secretary, seconded by Bruce Brodie. These changes took effect from 1/2/09.



Website Training Session

A Training Session is planned for the Local Network Editors who will manage the Network Pages of the SUSE Website. Training will take place on Wednesday 18th March from 10am-12pm or 2-4pm at Matrix Fife, Dalgety Bay, Fife. Networks are asked to think about who would be best placed to undertake this Commitment and send names and network details to: jackie.arthur@fife.gov.uk

The outcome of the Review of Specialist Disability Services is still

awaited with no finalised detail of the new programme available. SUSE continues to lobby on behalf of members who will be affected by the changes. Between the 2-16 December, DWP held a series of consultation workshops to introduce and seek views on the high level design of the new specialist disability programme, along with the proposed procurement and funding approach. Discussion at the events provided an opportunity for delegates to discuss a number of questions and raise issues. The following website provides a summary of the comments that were recorded by those who took part: www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/notice_to_providers_new_spec2901.asp

Specialist Disability Provision

SUSE Planning Day

SUSE Board Members held a Planning Day on 20th January which looked at what could be achieved with the limited resources available, and priorities for the coming year.

It was agreed to move forward with the development of SUSE and continue to build on its strengths. Margaret Linton and Bruce Brodie will progress a paper to the Scottish Government, regarding the resourcing of SUSE.

A short-term specific project will look at the marketing of SUSE and membership issues.

It was agreed that a professional annual report needs to be produced, highlighting the good practice and achievements of SUSE over the last 12 months.

The Scottish Business Diversity Awards has gained a high enough profile to be considered as a separate event from the SUSE Conference this year. There is a need to secure corporate funding to support the event. SUSE Directors Margaret Linton and Claire McIldowie will be driving this forward. Minutes of the meeting are attached.

You've Got Mail!

Some people with disabilities may find it difficult to access job information for a number of reasons. In Fife, this barrier has been reduced with Fife Employability Network's Email Vacancy Circulation Service. People with disabilities can sign up for this service and job vacancies notified to the network are emailed to them each week, right into their own mailbox. The network receives vacancy bulletins from Fife Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Fife Constabulary and NHS Fife - and some other vacancies from network agencies.

People signed up for the service are also encouraged to keep using Jobcentre Plus and other local employability services, including Jobseeker Direct. The service supplements the vacancy information people receive from their advisers; but has the added benefit of letting them browse job vacancy information just to see what's out there, an option which could widen their ideas of what they'd like to do. Registering for the service couldn't be easier. Anyone interested just contacts Fife Employability Network for a registration pack. It's the work of a few minutes to sign up. The registration pack can also be downloaded from www.fifedirect.org.uk/fenlink.

The service is proving a welcome addition to other sources of job vacancy information. About 30 people are registered and a recent followup has had positive feedback - including details of job offers. To find out more contact Sandra Wilson, Development Co-ordinator, Fife Employability Network, on 01592 583378 or email info@fenlink.org.uk.

More Jobs HOW? Conference
March 24th 2009: Glasgow
Scottish Youth Theatre, Old Sheriff Court 10am- 4pm

Benefits of attending

- Have your say on government policy on benefits and employment
- Join **VIAS's** work to get more people with learning difficulties working.
- Hear from and work with key local and national leaders on paid employment
- Make a video, write creatively, share your stories, learn what's working
-

This one day conference will examine issues and hear your views on:-

- why so many people with learning difficulties aren't working
- what impact the recession is having on full time paid work
- the impact of the recent changes in welfare benefits
- people with learning difficulties in work - sharing stories on finding work and what work means good practice from Scotland and elsewhere in the UK
- whether employment is being seen as an answer to cuts in social care budgets
- ideas from **VIAS's** 2008 conference - solutions and ideas for the way forward.
-

Why attend this conference?

At **VIAS's** 2008 conference people asked for 'how to' information and for information- sharing on good practice, **VIAS** was challenged on real work too – it's all in the **More Jobs HOW?** programme. Plus **VIAS** and the Scottish Government want to hear your views on why more people aren't getting paid work, what can be done to re-energise the process, whether employment is being seen as a way to cut costs. Join us and give your views and share your stories.

Who should attend?

People with learning difficulties • employment teams • employers • social workers • advocates and support workers • residential care managers • day centre managers • voluntary organisations • health services • local area co-ordinators • carers of people with learning difficulties • commissioners of services

Conference chair: John Dalrymple, Chair of Values into Action Scotland
Voting system: Cameron Presentations, sponsored by Scottish Government
Workshop leaders include: Maureen Cook, Jen Dollan, Julie Ridley, Foxy Films, Lipsync, Pave Graphics

Prices: £60 for bookings received before 1st March 2009 (£80 thereafter).
£10 unwaged £20 advocate support workers

Booking: Please fill in the booking form at www.viascotland.org.uk

Or contact: - info@viascotland.org.uk **or ring:** - 07980 750857

Training Programme 2009

SAIF acts as an advisory body to the Scottish Government on issues relating to disabled people and their carers.



A Booking Form for the courses detailed below is attached to this E-bulletin.

Accessible Information - Raising Awareness

Half day course for front-line staff:

- ✓ Accessible information in the context of disability legislation and the social model of disability
- ✓ Benefits for organisations and disabled people
- ✓ Accessibility standards for printed documents
- ✓ Producing information in alternative formats
- ✓ Using assistive technology to read electronic documents

Full day Course for Managers and Policy Makers:

- ✓ Accessible information in the context of disability legislation and the social model of disability
- ✓ Benefits for organisations, disabled people and staff
- ✓ Embedding accessible information into policies and strategies
- ✓ Accessibility standards for producing printed documents
- ✓ Managing production of alternative formats
- ✓ Design and delivery of accessible PowerPoint Presentations
- ✓ Issues raised when using assistive technology to access electronic documents

E-communication: accessibility in practice - Three practical training sessions delivered over 2 days for people who want to make sure that their e-communication is accessible.

Creating accessible documents:

- ✓ Producing accessible documents using styles and properties
- ✓ Converting these documents into portable document formats (PDFs)
- ✓ Checking the accessibility of PDF documents
- ✓ Good practice principles

Sending accessible emails:

- ✓ WYSINWTG (why what you send is not necessarily what they get)
- ✓ Pros and cons of different email formats - HTML, RTF, Plain Text
- ✓ Principles and good practice for sending group emails, for example e-newsletters

Testing the accessibility of websites:

- ✓ Using free tools to test the accessibility of a website
- ✓ Why accessibility options, for example, changing text size or font colour will not compensate for an inaccessible web page
- ✓ Accessing, using and understanding the role of online validation services

Course Dates for 2009

Accessible information - Raising Awareness

Aberdeen, The Foyer

Half-day course, Thursday 19th March, 1pm - 4pm

Full-day course, Friday 20th March, 10am - 4pm

Edinburgh, The Gillis Centre

Half-day course, Thursday 4th June, 1pm - 4pm

Full-day course, Friday 5th June, 10am - 4pm

Glasgow, TouchBase, Sense Scotland

Half-day course, Thursday 1st October, 1pm - 4pm

Full-day course, Friday 2nd October, 10am - 4pm

E-communication: accessibility in practice

Aberdeen, Scottish Agricultural College

Creating Accessible Documents, Thursday 2nd April, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Sending Accessible Emails, Friday 3rd April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Testing Website Accessibility, Friday 3rd April, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Edinburgh, iTrain Scotland, CBC House

Creating Accessible Documents, Thursday 3rd September, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Sending Accessible Emails, Friday 4th September, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Testing Website Accessibility, Friday 4th September, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Glasgow, Strathclyde University

Creating Accessible Documents, Thursday 5th November, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Sending Accessible Emails, Friday 6th November, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Testing Website Accessibility, Friday 6th November, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

For further information on these courses contact: Susan Burn at SAIF

tel: 0141 226 5261

fax: 0141 221 0731

text phone: 0141 226 8459

email: sburn@saifscotland.org.uk or visit saifscotland.org.uk

**If you have information you would like included
in the next SUSE E-bulletin
please email it to: shona.davidson@fife.gov.uk**