

## Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership

### Training Strategy Task Group

Conference Room D , Woodhill House

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

#### Present:

Debbie Bruce	Training Officer
Lynette Clubb	Cairn Training
Gilly Hearn	GW@EY
Maggie Hepburn	C S T A C
Fiona Rennie	SCMA
Jean Peat	Childcare Partnership – Minutes

#### 1. Apologies

Caroline Hay-Crawford	Development Officer (Childcare Strategy)
Shaunna Allan	Development Officer (Early Years)
Susan Bain	Early Years, Silverburn Lodge
Jo Hughes	Education Officer (Early Years)
Kathlyn Taylor	Children's House
Lisa Hossick	Representing Banff & Buchan College
Jim Wilson	Scottish Enterprise Grampian
Rosemary Pinsent	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008

These were accepted as read.

#### 3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

#### 4. Update on Training Provision & Development Activity

Regular training is still ongoing. The new first aid trainer has almost cleared the waiting list. The new rules and regulations concerning first aid training may mean that candidates have to refresh every year. This will have to be taken into account when ordering training. Tenders will go out again in April.

There is a small concern with the Elementary Food Hygiene training. The trainer, who is an Aberdeenshire Employee dealing with external candidates, is leaving her post. It is just possible that the position may not be filled and this course may also have to go out to tender.

There are now three new trainers for *Sing a Ring*. There is a large waiting list but dates for sessions in January and February are being arranged. There is a slight concern regarding payment of the tutors as they are Council employees and just transferring money does not seem to be an option. If *Sing a Ring* has to be sent out to tender there may be some difficulty getting tutors who are firstly Kodaly trained and secondly *Sing a Ring* competent.

Nutritional Guidance stage 2 has now been developed. This training is for people who provide meals and it will assist with menu planning. Delivery will begin in the new year.

#### 5. Procurement of SVQ and other training

Debbie could report that all paperwork for accredited courses and the more popular workshops and the specifications for external trainers has now been received by procurement. No specifications have been sent for the management courses. Caroline does not think that the level IV should be

delivered, as it is not well credited. That leaves the question of 'what to put in its place'? It had been expected that all candidates attending the short management courses would complete every part of stage one before moving on to complete the whole of stage two. This has not proved to be the case. Very few candidates have completed stage one and no one has started stage two. The courses overall were not well attended. Management qualifications are still needed. Debbie asked for members' thoughts on the dilemma. It was felt that the Childhood Practise Award might be too high for most candidates. The Chamber of Commerce's equivalent was thought to be intense and was not assessor lead, which is the method favoured by members and settings. It was asked if there was funding provision for candidates to find and choose their own courses. Debbie said this was something that could be put to the planning group. The CPD units worked much along these lines and they have been sent to procurement who wanted all possible courses naming which was something of a very tall order. The two transitional courses, allowing movement across the sector, have also been submitted. It was thought that SSSC were taking account of this problem but were working on a long-term solution when short term were needed.

Debbie asked if anyone had detailed information on the Practice Learning Qualification (PLQ), which helps assessors to mentor candidates whilst studying. It was known that RGU ran such a course but it was Social Work based and did not fit well with the Early Years needs. Aberdeen University, when approached, had no knowledge of the qualification as yet but had previously stated that they might deliver it. Owing to the uncertainty of the situation the remainder of this year's training budget will have to be carried forward.

The question of candidates being able to choose their own providers was discussed and it was decided that it was necessary for the Strategy Training Team to have some input. Debbie will discuss this with procurement and make sure that they understand that more than one trainer will be needed per course.

#### **6. Changes to Delivery of Partnership Workshops**

Debbie advised everyone that courses currently in the training outline book pertaining to the Curriculum for Excellence would be delivered by Elizabeth Anne Engel's team. This now consists of the pre-school development workers and the new Early Years coordinators. Six more teachers have been appointed. Theirs will be a mainly teaching role and will go some way to meet the Council's obligation to the Scottish Government's initiative of providing every child under five with access to a teacher. There will be seventeen posts to cover the CSNs. It will be the responsibility of the Early Years Coordinators to make contact with all relevant stakeholders and determine the training needed on a local level. Training will take place on 'In-service' days. Childminders, private nurseries and other care providers will need to become involved in these exchanges of ideas so that they receive the necessary training. Members were anxious to know how this would be facilitated, the possibility of awareness training sessions and whether the task group could have some involvement in the process. Elizabeth Anne has asked for access to the training database. Debbie will speak to ICT about this.

#### **7. Social Pedagogue Qualification**

Debbie attended an interesting and informative seminar in Stirling on the subject. It was suggested that the reason why partnership working does not always work was because of the snobbish behaviour between some professionals. This qualification was expected to remove such barriers and give everyone working with children the same care skills which can then be added to if someone wants to specialise in teaching or playwork. Pedagogues working in Norway also work in schools alongside teachers. There were qualified and student Pedagogues from other countries giving presentations. The Scottish Government is favouring this qualification. Aberdeen University will be the venue for one of the next three seminars organised by Children in Scotland and SOSCN. Members were encouraged to attend if at all possible.

#### **8. Benchmark Standard for Childhood Practice**

Debbie had received an email from Sharon Mackenzie from Aberdeen University looking for information on statutory documentation relating to their validation from the SSSC to deliver awards.

Counterparts in other authorities were clear that the responsibility for these documents is an obligation of the university offering the qualification.

**9. A. O. C. B.**

29<sup>th</sup> January was provisionally agreed on as the day for the planning day. Debbie will advise everyone if this day is suitable for Caroline. Detailed planning is limited owing to the procurement process but it was agreed that members would look at Assessors Qualification and the way forward as an area for discussion. Debbie would be happy to discuss any other areas of interest that the group thought necessary.

**10. Date and time of next meeting**