

Learning Link Scotland  
Annual Report  
2006 - 2007



**LEARNING  
LINK SCOTLAND**



Learning Link Scotland is the national intermediary organisation for the voluntary adult education sector

We **develop** adult learning in the voluntary sector, **represent** the views of member organisations, **support** voluntary adult education organisations and **promote** the value and unique contribution that the voluntary adult education sector makes towards the education of adults in Scotland.

**Telephone 0131 553 7992**  
**[www.learninglinkscotland.org.uk](http://www.learninglinkscotland.org.uk)**

Charity Number: SCO25308



## Chair's Report

I am delighted to present Learning Link Scotland's Annual report for 2006 – 2007, which has been a challenging and busy year. The organisation's aims and mission, work to ensure that the voluntary adult education sector is well placed in its contribution to Lifelong Learning in Scotland. Learning Link Scotland has contributed to strategic partnerships, proactive dialogue and representational activities as well as continuing to provide services to its members.

My thanks to the staff team, who have worked successfully with our members to influence the adult education policy and practice in Scotland. I would also like to thank our member representatives, who volunteer their time to the Executive Committee and Policy Committee as they reflect the diversity of the membership that represent good practice across the voluntary sector.

**Joyce Cannon**

## Director's Report

The past year has been one of challenges and achievements. As major projects ended we celebrated the success and learning achieved from working with members and partners. The knowledge and understanding gained from these projects contributes to sharing best practice from the sector as well as informing policy.

Research and development activities underpin how we build on and generate future projects by identifying the needs and gaps. We have carried out significant investigations and research throughout the year that not only informs the services we need to provide for our members but also to inform the sector and policy makers. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, the National ESOL Strategy and the Lifelong Learning Review are some of the policy areas we have been involved in this year ensuring members are well placed to respond and influence, as well as providing insight to policy makers based on the intelligence gathered from the field.

We continue to develop excellent working relationships with partners and look forward to new projects and areas of work ensuring that the voluntary adult education sector is valued for its unique contribution to the education of adults in Scotland.

**Jayne Stuart**



Learning Link Scotland is the national intermediary organisation for the voluntary adult education sector

## **We can facilitate dialogue, assist with consultations, organise focus groups**

Our facilitation work is a development of our European project work on Participatory Active Citizenship Tools:

**methods ▶ ideas ▶ techniques**

drawn from across Europe and beyond, for involving people in learning and decision making.

Our successful PACT project was a Learning Partnership in collaboration with Lisbon University Foundation and Oslo Adult Education Centre.

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The PACT Project is supported by the European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture, Socrates-Grundtvig programme.



## Develop

We develop adult learning in the voluntary sector through support to organisations, building their capacity, developing and promoting best practice. The Broadening Horizons Project (Esmee Fairbairn) and Membership Development Project (Big Lottery) brought member organisations and the practitioners together in developing their skills through workshops such as; Improving Services to Carers, Fundraising and Quality, Working with

*We reported on four investigations and action research, six responses to consultations and five presentations and inputs to events that promote the work of the sector.*

Volunteers and Listening to Learners. Both projects successfully concluded this year. We would like to thank member organisations and funders who worked with us in the delivery of the projects to members and partners.

This year saw much activity around the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) and The National ESOL Strategy. Supported by Learning Connections we investigated the extent of SCQF within the sector and ran a development day for members. This work has led to further support in creating a voluntary sector working group to take forward the work. Our 'ESOL in the Voluntary Sector' Report has demonstrated the diversity of the ESOL support and provision across the voluntary sector and our membership. The PACT Seminar in Edinburgh (Grundtvig) brought our members together with people and projects from Norway and Portugal. This final seminar launched the 'PACT with Potential' brochure showcasing the many methods, ideas and techniques drawn from across Europe for involving people in learning and decision making.

## Represent

We represent the views, and raise the awareness of the needs of our members to government and relevant networks and bodies, at local, national and international levels. During the year, we held meetings with three MSPs at the Scottish Parliament.

We support members to contribute to consultations; CLD Outcomes, ALNIS refresh, WALT Refresh and the Lifelong Learning Review to name but a few.

*We represented the sector on 16 external committees and task groups*

Much of our representative work is done through external committees and task groups we are involved in. A selection of these includes; Lifelong Learning Forum, LLUK Community Learning and Development Constituency Panel, SCQF and community learning and development Advisory Group, and Scottish Further Education Unit Communities of Practice on Adult Literacies Advisory Group.



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## We can deliver workshops to develop your skills in **community engagement** and **learner participation**

Our workshops are based on our European project work on Participatory Active Citizenship Tools:

**methods** ▶ **ideas** ▶ **techniques**

drawn from across Europe and beyond, for involving people in learning and decision making.

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## Support

We support voluntary adult education organisations through: the provision of information, signposting, training, networking and general sharing of view and ideas. This year as major projects successfully concluded during June to August, we continued to support our members by developing a Winter Training Programme utilising the materials and learning gained from the projects. This approach is part of a new sustainable

*We supported a **membership of 127** voluntary adult learning organisations based in **28 local authority areas** providing support and development through the completion of 3 major projects and information provision of 12 electronic bulletins, three newsletters and two policy briefings throughout the year*

strategy for us, and as we continue to gain further insight and knowledge into members' needs and interests, we aim to progress our vision for supporting member services and practitioner development.

Ensuring members are kept informed around policy and practice, we continued with our newsletters and policy briefings. We reviewed this with members at the start of 2007, creating an e-bulletin that could be produced and disseminated quickly.

*This year **647 workers** from **518 organisations** were supported and trained at **29 of our events***

## Promote

We promote the value and unique contribution that the voluntary adult education sector makes towards the education of adults in Scotland. During the year we raised the profile of our members at partnership development meetings such as those with Careers Scotland, learndirect Scotland, the Centre for Research and Lifelong Learning and the SFEU, as well as presentations we made at various local and national conferences.

*Meetings with **three MSP's**, **12 meetings** with **Scottish Executive** and **5 meetings** with **national agencies and NDPBs**, attendance at **8 external conferences***

The highlight of the year was the 'Come All Ye' Learning Festival, showcasing the amazing work of voluntary adult education sector. We were delighted to have as our host, Jim McCormick (Scottish Council Foundation), along with key note speakers Professor Lalage Bown, Sir Bernard Crick and Professor Patrick Reilly. 'Come All Ye' attracted nearly 300 highly satisfied attendees and contributors from across the sectors. Following the success of 2006, we are now focused on making this annual event a highlight in the learning calendar.

## Finance 2007

INCOME	£
Grants Received	187,385
Other Income	77,206
TOTAL INCOME	264,591
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	259,369
Net Incoming Resources	5,222
Balance Brought Forward	83,866
TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2007	89,088

*Auditors: Cowan & Partners CA*

*Full audited accounts are available from Learning Link Scotland*

## Executive Committee

Chair	Joyce Connon
Vice Chair	Fiona Craig
Treasurer	Rona Connolly
Members	Asma Abdalla
	Nicola Gilbert
	Christine Kennedy
	Mary Hamilton
	George Thomson

## Funders



Europe and Scotland  
Making it **work together**



European Commission, Directorate General Education  
and Culture: Socrates-Grundtvig programme

This publication is available in large text format  
– call 0131 553 7992.