

## Tackling Debt – A positive response

This new resource for learning and teaching is based on five case studies of people getting into debt for a variety of reasons. One of the case studies has been filmed and presented on a DVD produced in partnership with Caley Youth Centre, Livewire Theatre Company and Commotion Youth Theatre, all based in North Ayrshire, and Stirling Park. The resource also contains four text-based case studies and suggestions for learning and teaching.

*Tackling Debt* recognises that it can be easy to get into serious debt if you don't take care in tracking your finances, you use inappropriate forms of finance, or there's a change in your personal circumstances.

This exciting new resource will be showcased at the Financial Education Conference in December and will be launched in spring 2009.

## Useful resources

Glow, the national intranet for teachers and young people throughout Scotland, is being adopted by almost every local authority in Scotland and is proving to be an excellent means for teachers to keep abreast of educational developments. A Financial Education Glow Group has been set up featuring the latest resources and CPD in this area. Details on Glow key contacts in each local authority can be found on the GlowScotland website.

[www.LTScotland.org.uk/glowscotland/localauthorities/index.asp](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/glowscotland/localauthorities/index.asp)



Opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of the place of *Curriculum for Excellence* in education for financial capability in our schools and early years establishments can be accessed through the LTS website and through CPD Find.

[www.LTScotland.org.uk/financialeducation/index.asp](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/financialeducation/index.asp)  
[www.LTScotland.org.uk/cpdscotland/cpdfind/index.asp](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/cpdscotland/cpdfind/index.asp)

'It's refreshing to receive teacher-friendly resources and the offer of continuing support from SCFE development officers.' Teacher, Inverness

## Around the country with SCFE

A series of CPD workshops for early years and primary practitioners was delivered by SCFE development officers at venues across Scotland during November. The six events took place in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness. These have proved extremely popular, with some events oversubscribed. The most recently produced resources from SCFE were featured, making the connections with *Curriculum for Excellence* draft experiences and outcomes.

All events have included an input from credit unions in the different parts of the country and in Glasgow Pamela McClean of Class Connections was also involved.

## Upcoming events

The SCFE will be running another series of CPD events around the country for early years and primary practitioners during March 2009. Details of venues are:

**Edinburgh**, 3 March; **Stirling**, 5 March;  
**Aberdeen**, 10 March; **Glasgow** 17 March;  
**Kilmarnock**, 18 March; and **Glasgow**, 24 March.

Contact [r.arnott@LTScotland.org.uk](mailto:r.arnott@LTScotland.org.uk) for further information.

'Very good to have a chance to discuss with other colleagues the money outcomes and the implications of Curriculum for Excellence.' Teacher, Dundee

Learning and Teaching Scotland  
The Optima, 58 Robertson Street,  
Glasgow G2 8DU  
Customer Services: 08700 100 297  
[enquiries@LTScotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@LTScotland.org.uk)  
[www.LTScotland.org.uk](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk)



Learning and Teaching Scotland is committed to making it easier for all our learners to access high quality resources. With this in mind we are delighted to have launched *Leis an Airgead* which is the Gaelic version of the award winning short stories *On the Money*. It is hoped that over the next few months we will adapt more of our resources for use in the Gaelic speaking community. Working with our partners Scottish Book Trust and Standard Life we are launching *On the Money* in Northern Ireland, and this will involve translating *On the Money* into Irish Gaelic.

Over the next few months we will be launching two new resources *Tackling Debt – A Positive Approach* and *Small Change*. These resources aimed at young people in secondary schools will be of use in a number of contexts, particularly PSE, English and drama. We will be showcasing *Tackling Debt* and *Small Change* at our annual conference to be held on 4 December at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh.

My colleagues and I were delighted to learn that Roz McEwan, Headteacher, Cambusbarron Primary School, Stirling, has been awarded a Fellowship from the Royal Society of Arts for her contribution to financial education.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Lally'.

Jim Lally, Director, SCFE

Contact Jim on 01382 443600 or [J.lally@LTScotland.org.uk](mailto:J.lally@LTScotland.org.uk)



## Credit Union Savings Scheme at Hillpark New Learning Community

**Gayle Brown describes her involvement in Glasgow's pilot credit union savings scheme.**

When I heard of the credit union savings scheme about to be piloted in Hillpark NLC primary schools, I was very keen to become involved. Having read recent statistics regarding Glasgow's poverty rate and the number of adults without a bank account, it seemed vitally important to educate children about money from an early age.

Colleagues from SCFE invited me onto a working party to develop support materials for the project. The working party comprised colleagues from various sectors of education, an employability and enterprise officer, an additional support needs teacher, and a representative from the Greater Govan Credit Union. The working party began by undertaking research to determine how a credit union operated, and how a school-based savings scheme would work in practice. We held meetings with the Greater Govan Credit Union and researched savings schemes already put in place by other authorities. After we had gained a better insight into the benefits of credit unions, we began to put together a set of support materials and resources for teachers setting up a savings scheme in their school.

I am now very excited about launching this pilot scheme in my school and I look forward to witnessing the positive effect it will have on the next generation of Glasgow's children.



## Learning about money at Barmoss Nursery

Inverclyde was one of 11 authorities in receipt of additional funding to make an impact on financial exclusion. Margaret Kelly, the Education Finance Officer, visited Barmoss

The nursery headteacher Hazel Mitchell took a closer look at the early level draft money outcomes in Curriculum for Excellence and along with her very innovative staff planned a money event to which all parents and friends were invited. The event was a huge success thanks to the extremely creative staff, whose ideas included activities such as musical money, roll your penny and money art. The local credit union, which is already contributing to financial inclusion, was invited into the nursery to encourage the children to open an account and so develop an early saving habit. So successful was this approach that staff and parents also opened accounts.

Nursery School to speak to staff about the importance of financial education and on building on the children's prior knowledge. A surprising number of children don't know where money comes from and working for it seems to them a novel idea.

'I enjoyed the course and found the information useful, in particular the information about credit unions.'

Teacher, Edinburgh

## Small Change

The money statements in the numeracy outcomes ensure that developing financial capability in young people is the responsibility of all teachers. However, financial education has to be seen as an interdisciplinary theme within Curriculum for Excellence because finance impinges on so many areas of our lives.

This is reflected in our new resource, *Small Change*, which has been produced in partnership with Glasgow City Council, Bannerman High School and the TAG Theatre Company, based at the Citizens' Theatre.

All drama students from Bannerman High School attended a performance at the Citizens' Theatre, also participating in a workshop where they learned



about the technicalities associated with performance – lighting, sound effects, props, etc. Following this, the youngsters were supported by TAG in performing rehearsed improvisations, which were subsequently filmed. These scenes concentrate on how relationships are affected by what we choose to do with our money. The launch of this resource is planned for January 2009 and a working group has created teacher support materials which will accompany the DVD. Following the launch, this resource will be available to all Scottish secondary schools.

Special thanks must go to Yvonne MacLean, who developed this idea when she was Employability and Enterprise Officer for the Bannerman cluster.

'Remember that credit is money.' Benjamin Franklin

'CPD session well delivered and very informative. I will make very good use of the freebies.' Teacher, Inverclyde

## SCFE sessions for student teachers

Scottish universities have an excellent track record of working with a range of organisations to provide the best possible training for their students. Last session, development officers from the Scottish Centre for Financial Education were able to work with postgraduate students from Strathclyde University.

As colleagues in schools take greater responsibility for curriculum change, we will be working with those universities offering initial teacher education, delivering the draft money outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence. Students and newly qualified teachers have ideals that they want to pass on to their pupils and are very aware of the importance of financial education in tackling social exclusion and in developing skills essential for the Scottish economy.

The sessions we offer are planned in partnership with the different universities and their individual lecturers – clearly one size doesn't fit all.

Generally speaking we begin with a short presentation introducing financial education. A discussion session follows where students can consider financial education in the context of Curriculum for Excellence, making reference to the financial experiences young people bring to the classroom. In addition, there is a focus on examining what the learning outcomes mean in relation to contexts for learning and teaching irrespective of specialist subject or sector. There follows an analysis of the various financial resources produced by the SCFE as well as discussions on how best to make the outcomes and experiences a reality for all our young people.

A plenary in line with Assessment is for Learning rounds up the session to ensure we have achieved our course aims.



## S4 'Credit Crunchers' will sort your finances!

Financially aware pupils from St Andrew's High School in Clydebank have been working on a project aimed at children and adults alike. The project has been ongoing since February this year and has had a tremendous amount of work invested in it.

The self-named 'Credit Crunchers' have investigated the spending and saving habits of both local adults and pupils in the school in a bid to compare and contrast the knowledge and habits of various groups and identify areas where gaps in knowledge and financial skills appear. The group consists of 12 pupils, by coincidence all girls.

The group started by creating a generic but detailed survey questionnaire with the help of one of the teachers, and distributed copies to 20 pupils in each year group, with the support of several teachers in different departments, and a sample of 50 of the school's staff. The go-ahead girls also took their surveys out into the community, targeting a random sample of 50 adults on a wet and windy spring afternoon outside the Clyde Shopping Centre.

With the help of the Standard Grade Administration classes, the results from the surveys are currently being analysed and put into an electronic format including pie charts and graphs. The group was even filmed during some meetings as well as while surveying local adults, as part of an educational DVD being produced by West Dunbartonshire Council.

One of the pupils involved, Niamh Boyce, said, 'It's amazing how much your skills and confidence develop when you are doing something to help yourself and others in the real world. The best thing about this project is that we got to make all the key decisions about what to do and where the project is going.'

Once the results of the survey are collated, the financial education group is set to present its results in an innovative and exciting way during Money Week in October 2008 through animations and hopefully, a web page. The pupils have worked extremely hard on the project and the importance of this sort of activity and the intensity of their efforts are highly valued by the school.

Amy McCormick, pupil at St Andrew's High School