



Learning disability services in Perth and Kinross are being transformed to make them better for everyone who needs them. This newsletter brings you updates on the progress Perth & Kinross Council, partner agencies, service users and carers are making together. Welcome to the *fourth* edition!



One Life One Plan

A new way of working is allowing people with learning disabilities to receive support that is better fitted to the wishes and aspirations they have for their lives.



Person Centred Planning is a way of helping people to think about what they want now and in the future. It is also about looking at what people are good at, not just considering what they can't do.



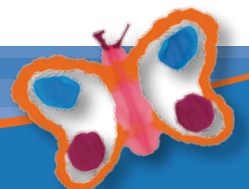
Previously people using learning disability services would have different support plans from each of the organisations involved in their care. Under person centred planning, agencies and service users work together so that individuals will have one plan only. These plans will be developed based on the views of the individual as well as of others who know and care about them.

The Care Commission has praised the Council for the quality of our new personal plans. Parents and team members are also welcoming the positive changes that the plans are making for people's lives.



People are being supported to identify their goals and make real changes in their lives.

Paul Henderson





Taking Control

As part of our work to give people with learning disabilities control over the way in which they receive support, Perth & Kinross Council is testing a new system where people are given their own budget to choose the support they need, rather than be fitted into existing services.



Scott Ritchie, who is taking part in this pilot project, shared his experiences with other families who are participating elsewhere in Scotland, at a reception in the Scottish Parliament with Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. Scott's Dad said:



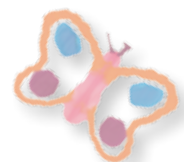
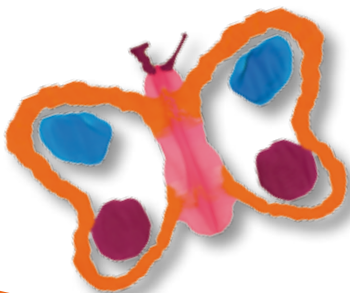
“Scott has really benefited from having his own budget and it has allowed him to attend college and spend more time with people of his own age.”

Respite Care



The Council's Short Break's bureau is giving service users and carers more control and choice in the kind of respite they receive. Some have chosen to receive support at home, or join in activities in their local area. Others have opted for city breaks or holidays.

Having successfully piloted the Short Break's Bureau, the Council is now developing alternatives to the Birch Avenue Respite Centre. Residential respite will still be available to anyone who needs it. Others can look forward to more choice and flexibility in how they enjoy respite.



Support for Employment

Getting a job can be more difficult in today's economic climate than previously, for people with learning disabilities as much as for anyone else.

The Council's Employment Support Team is working with organisations and employers to break down barriers and widen the local job market for people with learning disabilities.

Brian Kinnear, Employment Development Manager, said:

"We are working with 59 employers throughout Perth and Kinross and with 50 people keen to enter the job market. We are here to support both the individual and the employer to secure successful work opportunities which benefit everyone."

Freddy Campbell is supported by the Team. He said:

"I had a job but was made redundant, along with some colleagues, in September 2009. The Employment Support Team helped me get work experience which led to me getting a job in October. I am relieved to have gotten another paid job so soon after being made redundant."

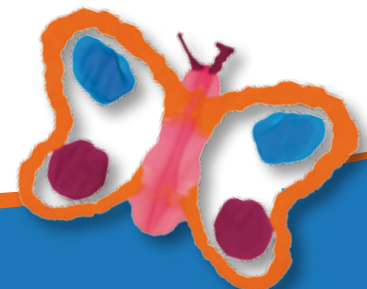
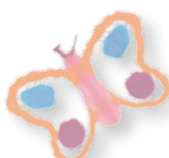
To find out how the team can help you, as an employer or someone with learning disabilities seeking employment, call 01738 634174 or 01250 871919.



Can Able

As part of increasing support for people with learning disabilities to enter the job market, Perth & Kinross Council is dedicating £70,000 to developing the Can Able project.

This project currently provides work experience to 30 people, based on recycling aluminium cans. The Council is looking to expand and improve the service provided.





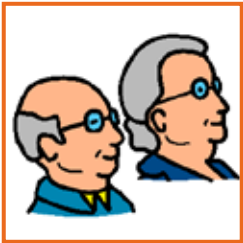
News in Brief

Congratulations to everyone who undertook training in citizen leadership. The citizen leadership group is working to help make sure that as our services develop, they continue to meet the needs of the people who use them.



Best Value Review Progress

The vision driving the changes being made to Perth and Kinross learning disabilities was highlighted in a report considered recently by Perth & Kinross Council's Housing & Health Committee: that people with a learning disability live a fulfilled life, enjoying the same opportunities as everyone else, and that their carers and families get the support and advice they need.



The report also outlines progress made to date in improving services across a range of areas, such as respite and local area co-ordination.

A copy of the report is available on www.pkc.gov.uk



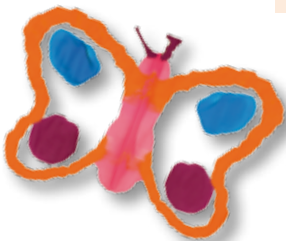
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This newsletter is written for anyone in Perth and Kinross interested in learning disability services. If you have a view on how we could make it better please let us know by contacting 01738 476724 or email communitycare@pkc.gov.uk

