

## EQUAL ACCESS



# e-bulletin

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Welcome to the August edition of the e-bulletin. As you will see from our front cover we are saying goodbye to Kate Still who is moving on to pastures new. The Equal Access partnership would like to say thank you to Kate for all her hard work as Network Director and wish her well in her new post with the Wise Group. We would also like to welcome Liz Logan as the new Network Director and David Coyne as Executive Director of the City Strategy Glasgow Works. We hope you enjoy this edition and if there is anything you think we should include in future editions please contact the Central Support Unit, details on back page.

As some of you may be aware, my tenure as Equal Access Network Director comes to an end this month and I will shortly be taking up my new post as Director of Development with the Wisegroup. I am happy to say that Equal Access is in good hands as Liz Logan will take over as Acting Network Director on my departure. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

Certainly, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of working with a very wide range of partners on implementing the Equal Access Strategy and take this opportunity to say a very BIG thanks to each and every one of you in implementing this important employability agenda. I hope to be in contact with many of you in my new role. Once again many thanks!

Regards *Kate Still*

## Appointment of Equal Access Network Director

*From the recent publications of the Equal Access ebulletin you will have come to know my face as the RE:Focus Manager, a post I have held since October 06. I am delighted to report that I will take over as Network Director when our current Network Director; Kate Still leaves at the end of August. This is an exciting time for Equal Access when we see ourselves working closely with the newly appointed Executive Director of the City Strategy; David Coyne to embed the work and lessons learned from Equal Access into the City Strategy.*

The work of the Network Director is both diverse and challenging and I am looking forward to working with our partners to deliver on those challenges and make sure that Equal Access continues to succeed. I am in a fortunate position in that my two predecessors have left a strong legacy for me to continue and there is a strong team supporting me at the Central Support Unit, in the localities and through our Executive and Strategy Groups and the Board.

I will work through the closure of RE:Focus Action 2 but will still support the Action 3 – Mainstreaming Work plan, in that time I will be setting my key work objectives and priorities. The Employability agenda has been at the heart of my work for the past 17years and it is with great enthusiasm that I support the Equal Access Partnership in fulfilling our aims and objectives of the Equal Access Strategy and our role in the City Strategy.



## New Director to lead the City Strategy Team

Congratulations to David Coyne, who was appointed recently to take on the exciting challenge of leading the implementation of City Strategy in his new role of Executive Director. Many of you will know David, who has a proven track record working in economic regeneration activities over the past 20 years. He brings to the post considerable experience of working across the public, private and voluntary sectors as well as a commitment and enthusiasm for tackling the employability agenda. I'm sure we all wish him well and will offer him every support in the delivery of the City Strategy. If you want to know more about the City Strategy there are a number of information events being organised across the City during September, contact your local Equal Access Manager about registering interest in attending.



## Embedding Service User Involvement in Workforce Plus

*The Scottish Executive aims to ensure the voice and views of Service Users are an integral part of the future development of service provision. As part of this process a workshop was held recently at Caledonian University with the aim of developing ideas for Service User involvement in Workforce Plus.*

The event was introduced by Margaret Barbier from the Social Inclusion Division, Scottish Executive, where she acknowledged all the good work that has been going on recently in promoting service user involvement, in particular the work of the EQUAL Development Partnerships. She highlighted how we need to channel the lessons learned from these projects and posed the following questions:

- **What can Service User involvement offer Workforce Plus partnerships?**
- **What next? How can the learning be embedded into policy development and organisational change?**
- **Who can drive things forward, what structures would help and how can policy makers make it real?**

It was agreed this was no easy task for the workshop discussions and to help set the scene there was a presentation from Alison McCrae, Equal Access to Employment in Glasgow and Kate Lindsay, Caledonian University on the lessons learned from the Service User involvement in EQUAL funded programmes. This included the outline of a model of Service User Empowerment as well as the lessons from practitioners and policy makers.

A report from the workshops will be compiled and circulated at a later date.

**For a copy of the presentation and further information on the models of empowerment please go to: [www.serviceuser.org](http://www.serviceuser.org)**

## Ongoing engagement with services users

*A recommendation of the service user consultation was that we continue to engage and update service users throughout the lifetime of the strategy.*

Since the report was disseminated we have engaged with service users in the following ways:

Each person who left their contact details after the consultation events has received a copy of the report and an accompanying letter detailing progress on the recommendations. This letter also introduced people to the City Strategy given our close ties with the delivery of the Strategy. The report was also submitted to the City Strategy writing group and was used to inform the bid.

Earlier this year we conducted focus groups on the City Strategy with several groups of service users (ie. lone parents, people from BME groups, people with disabilities and people with mental health issues). Feedback from these groups was fed to the City Strategy writing group.

At the moment, we are consulting on the draft of the service user information guide currently called "A Guide to Getting Work in Glasgow" (introduced in the February e-bulletin).

**If you would like a copy of the draft guide for you and your service users to comment on or you would like us to talk to your service user group about Equal Access and/or the city strategy then contact Alison McCrae on 0141 429 2518**



## Mapping the way to Employability

*The North Glasgow Meaningful Activity Partnership (MAP) provides a holistic and person centred employability bridging service to bring health and employability services together for those individuals wishing to access meaningful activity and progress towards employment. The service operates within Springburn, Possil and Maryhill Health Centres. The service is delivered by a Core Team and led by Co-ordinator Caroline Elder.*



The Partnership approach to this service is key as it enables people to access services along all stages of the employability pathway— from services that provide positive activity to those services that provide later stages of work preparation and in-work support. The Partnership comprises of agencies who have expertise in strategic direction ensuring equality and access to meaningful activity; client engagement, guidance and support guaranteeing a seamless journey for participants.

Caroline Elder, the Co-coordinator, explains: “the MAP service is all about making sure everyone, no matter their background, age, gender, ethnicity, personal or health history can access the same job opportunities as anyone else.

“What we’ve created at MAP is a holistic, person centered support service for those most excluded from the labour market. We tailor the support to each individual’s needs that could include counseling and mentoring, welfare rights, volunteering, debt management, training and learning as well as mainstream employment services. The service strives to give our clients the chance to gain meaningful work and in the process improve their quality of life and emotional and physical well being.”

MAP is currently resourced by the following partners including Equal Access, North Glasgow Regeneration Agency in partnership with Keepwell, North Glasgow Healthy Living Community and the Full Area Employment Initiative. Clients are able to self-refer by either contacting the team directly when in the Health Centre or by completing a Referral Form or discuss the opportunity with their health care worker to make the referral. Primary Care Staff can have a member of the bridging service accompany them on visits or complete a Referral Form.

**For more information about the Meaningful Activity Partnership you should contact Sharon Barclay, Equal Access Manager on 0141 552 5413.**

## Chinese Employment Project

*The launch of the Chinese Employment Project (CEP) on 23rd August attracted over 60 delegates from a wide range of agencies including health, social care, employability agencies and the voluntary sector. This exciting project is a partnership with the Chinese Healthy Living Centre, Glasgow West Regeneration Agency and West Community Health and Care Partnership.*

Glasgow has a growing Chinese community and it is estimated there are 4,000 permanent Chinese residents in Glasgow. However, this is thought to be a conservative number and a more accurate figure is around 10,000 living within the travel to work area. There are also a significant number of Chinese students living in the city, many of whom wish to remain following their study. In addition there are a growing number of Chinese refugees and asylum seekers now living in the city.

The aim of the project is to provide a comprehensive employability service to the Chinese people within the Glasgow area, bridging the gap between the significant demand that exists and their lack of access to mainstream employment services. Using a person centred approach; CEP supports members of the community along the employment pathway and improves links and shared knowledge between Glasgow’s Chinese organisations and the cities mainstream employability agencies.

**For further information on the project please contact: Mr Shian Xu on 0141 248 4388**

## Dates for your diary

### City Strategy/Glasgow Works Launch dates:

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership is coordinating a series of events to launch the new Glasgow Works strategy. This will include a city centre launch on the 5th September followed by 5 locality events hosted in each of the Community Health and Care Partnership areas. The format will include information on both Glasgow Works and the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) strategies. You can get further information on the local events from the Equal Access Manager in your area:

**Glasgow East, Thursday 13th September, venue, Celtic Park,  
Contact: David Black 0141 781 4024**

**Glasgow South West, Friday 14th September, venue, Burrell Collection,  
Contact: Joanne Farrow 0141 585 6843**

**Glasgow West, Monday 17th September, venue, Next Generation, Anniesland  
Contact: Angie Black, 0141 949 4911**

**Glasgow North, Tuesday 18th September, venue, Petershill Park  
Contact: Sharon Barclay, 0141 552 5413**

**Glasgow South East, Wednesday 19th September, venue, Hampden Park  
Contact Christine Jess, 0141 634 1024 or contact:  
info@gcpl.org.uk**

### Glasgow Business Diversity Awards Friday 28th September 07, venue Hampden Park

The Greater Glasgow Network for Supported Employment (GGNSE) in Partnership with Glasgow Employer Coalition are hosting this years Business Diversity Awards on Friday 28th September 07 at Hampden Park.

The awards have been developed to recognise employers who actively support diversity within the workplace. The nomination categories are recruitment and retention, with a winner in each are and one overall winner selected.

The 3 winners will then be nominated for the Scottish National Business Diversity Awards being hosted by the Scottish Union of Supported Employment at their conference in November 2007.

**If you would like to download a nomination form please go to:  
<http://www.ggnse.org.uk/>**

**Or for further information contact: Margaret Linton 0141 429 2518**

### In work, better off next steps to employment: next steps to employment consultation Thursday 4th October 14.00 – 16.00, venue Hampden Park

In the July edition of the e-bulletin we flagged up the publication of the Department for Working & Pensions (DWP) In work, better off: next steps to employment green paper. This sets out the proposals for the UK government to help achieve the goal of full employment. Equal Access to Employment in Glasgow is hosting this consultation event to elicit the views of the voluntary sector on the proposed reforms. A report will be made available after the event on the response being made to DWP. Places are limited so if you would like any further information please contact Margaret Linton or Joe Dowd on 0141 429 2518

**A copy of the report can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/in-work-better-off/>**

### Equal Access Central Support Unit

**Kate Still:** Network Director

**Tom Golcher:** New Connections  
Manager

**Eugene O'Donoghue:** Finance  
Director

**Margaret Linton:** Communications  
Manager

**Alison McCrae:** Equal Access  
Manager

**Kim Murphy:** Equal Access Manager

Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road  
Glasgow G5 0PQ

0141 429 2518

**[www.equalaccessglasgow.com](http://www.equalaccessglasgow.com)**

### RE: FOCUS Development Partnership

**Liz Logan:** Re: Focus Manager  
lizlogan@easglasgow.com

**Joe Dowd:** Re: Focus Mainstreaming  
Co-ordinator

joedowd@easglasgow.com