

Parallel Sessions

Family Learning for Social Cohesion

The session will consider the benefits of family learning in terms of what research tells us about its impact and look at two WEA projects in Scotland and England. It will discuss WEA Scotland's response to research, which has been to develop an accredited parenting programme to support community parent groups with their work with vulnerable young parents. It provides formal recognition of the vital role of parents and carers as the most influential educators in the early years. This is an important aspect as we are often working with young girls who have been disaffected from mainstream education, have left school without any formal qualifications and find the challenges of parenting overwhelming.

We are also introduced to the WEA's Big Lottery-funded, *Family Learning for Social Cohesion* project, which runs in 8 areas in England. The project engages families from disadvantaged communities in enjoying learning together to help parents become more able to support their children in learning, interact positively with their children, and develop their own skills. An important aspect is to increase awareness of and contact with the cultures of other communities to help to break down barriers. A range of qualitative and quantitative evidence is being gathered as part of the project with evaluation support from the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

Chair: Dr Marion Flett, Academic researcher in the field of adult learning

Presenters: Alison Morrison, Area Tutor Organiser, WEA Scotland
Mary Curran, Special Projects and Research Manager, WEA
Clive Mobbs, Big Lottery Fund Project Co-ordinator, WEA

Widening Participation through building sustainable partnerships: An Open University in Scotland perspective

This session will look at what we know about the changing characteristics of Open University students and discuss the recent experience of using the OU Openings suite of 'access' courses in a range of different settings. In particular, the presenters will look at the importance of local networks and partnerships and issues of funding and sustainability.

Chair: Jayne Stuart, Director, Learning Link Scotland

Presenters: Dr Pete Cannell, Depute Director, (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum), the Open University in Scotland
Dr Lindsay Hewitt, OU Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator (Widening Participation)

The WEA-UNISON Learning@Work Programme: Addressing Social Justice Issues through Workplace Learning

Established through a UK wide partnership agreement, the WEA-UNISON Learning@Work programme in Scotland has managed to increase participation in learning from groups of workers in low paid, low skilled jobs in the health and social care sectors. By taking appropriately developed and delivered learning into workplaces, WEA and UNISON have helped address and support key social justice issues and overcome barriers faced by non-traditional learners. Amongst these are issues such as access to learning, age, gender, location, job role and cost. An important element has been to prioritise the personal development of the individual, in contrast to training focused more narrowly on their employer's needs.

This session will examine how both WEA and UNISON continue to meet their organisational objectives through partnership working and the role that social justice issues have in determining the priorities for the two organisations. Participants will have the chance to discuss how effective workplace learning can be in addressing issues of social justice and what lessons can be learnt from the experiences of WEA and UNISON in this field.

Chair: Pam Johnson, Head of Learning and Organising Services, UNISON

Presenters: David Howie, National Programme Co-ordinator, Trade Union Partnerships, WEA Scotland
Donald Cameron, Membership Development Officer, UNISON

WEA Literacy and Numeracy programmes in Scotland:

Addressing social justice through the social practice model in workplace and community

In 2001 the Scottish government implemented a 'social practice' approach to literacies development and provision. It outlined seven priority groups, where literacies funding was to be targeted. These included workers in low-skilled jobs; unemployed people and workers facing redundancy; people on low incomes; people with health problems and disabilities, and people with limited initial education - particularly young adults.

This session will explore the numerous ways the WEA in Scotland has worked in partnership with local authorities and other key agencies to engage learners from the Government's target groups in literacies learning from 2001 to the present day. The session will examine how the social practice model has been implemented by the WEA across Scotland to bring literacy and numeracy provision to those who traditionally find themselves most excluded from learning opportunities.

Chair: Professor Lyn Tett, University of Edinburgh

Presenters: Shirley Howitt, Area Tutor Organiser, WEA Scotland

Craig Finnie, Workplace Literacy Tutor Organiser, WEA Scotland

Alison Mclachlan, Numeracy Project Worker, WEA Scotland

Support for employability

ABF, WEA's sister organisation in Sweden, will showcase their *Own Way to Work* project which looks at alternatives to employment for marginalised groups who now face even greater barriers to employment as more and more highly skilled people find themselves without a job. A focus on self-employment and co-operatives has emerged. The project has developed learning approaches which helped participants themselves identify these options and is able to respond with learning programmes which support them to achieve their goals.

The session will also look at a French model of one-to-one sustained mentoring developed by one of the WEA's long-standing transnational partners, E2i. These local schemes for inclusion and employment of disaffected young people have been highly effective. 200 schemes are now running with funding from the European Social Fund and Local Authorities. *Why does it work when all else has failed these young people?*

Chair: Judith Thomas, Area Tutor Organiser, WEA Scotland

Presenters: Henri Lemarois, E2i, France

Anna Sunneteg, EVA project and ABF Örebro, Sweden

Tandrusti: Health and Well-being

This session will look at the WEA Tandrusti Project, which was set up to address the health needs and experiences of minority ethnic communities in Dudley. Tandrusti courses cover many aspects of health include community gym, postural stability instruction (falls prevention), physical activity and medical conditions, anatomy and physiology, diet, nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

A fundamental role of the project is making sure that the health information and advice given to minority ethnic communities is culturally sensitive and relevant to them. The project started in 2001 and for its first three years targeted members of South Asian communities aged over 60. In addition to the direct health benefits, an independent review of the project found that Tandrusti had led to people becoming involved in training and volunteering activities who were “highly unlikely” to have done so otherwise. Tandrusti is now working with adult organisations across the Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Bangladeshi, Gujarati, Yemeni, Afro-Caribbean and British Communities. It has run successfully for eight years, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund, Dudley Primary Care Trust and the WEA.

A project inspired by Tandrusti but adapted to meet the needs of the local community is now running in Stoke, accompanied by a new WEA office in the city. Like Tandrusti, it runs courses that are culturally competent, local, informal and supportive. The work in Stoke has received funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

Chair: Clare-Marie White, Community Health Education in Stoke-on-Trent (CHEST) Project Manager, WEA

Presenters: Harjinder Kang, Tandrusti Project Manager, WEA

Iram Naz, Project Researcher, Research and Communications Coordinator, WEA West Midlands Region

Joy Follis, Tandrusti Project Coordinator, WEA



These students from the Longton and Tunstall areas of Stoke attended a WEA fitness course and formed a relay team to run the Potters 'Arf Marathon in June 2009. All were first-time runners.

Active Citizenship and Social Justice

This session will take a critical look at what is meant by ‘active citizenship’ education in a WEA context and will explore the curriculum and models of good practice. The session will draw on the experience of a two-year project in South Yorkshire, which engaged over 600 adults in political education. It will focus on what an active citizenship curriculum should include, consider how such education is best developed and delivered on the ground, and explore possibilities to build the work in the future.

In addition, WEA South Wales will present work in progress on a three year trans-national project which is focusing on citizenship and food sovereignty. WEA South Wales is working with organizations in Europe, South America and Africa to develop a toolkit, which will help develop a rights-based approach to community development and the embedding of global citizenship in adult community learning.

Chair: Maggi Dawson, General Secretary/Chief Executive, WEA South Wales

Presenters: Felicity Furlong, Regional Education Manager, WEA South Wales
Jol Miskin, Regional Education Manager and Tutor Organiser, WEA

Contributors: Peter Frith, WEA project participant
Ouattara Houadjotany, WEA project participant
Radmilla Fortune West, WEA project participant, Northern Refugee Centre

Active Citizens:

Legal education as a tool for public engagement

Launched in 2008, Open University’s short course *An introduction to law in contemporary Scotland* is attracting students looking to improve their understanding of how the law works in Scotland as a way of getting more involved in their communities. The Open University's Carol Howells and Liz Campbell from The Law Society of Scotland will outline the rationale behind the course, its development, and the role higher education can play in supporting active citizenship.

Chair: TBC

Presenters: Carol Howells, Senior Lecturer in Law, The Open University

Liz Campbell, Director of Education and Training, The Law Society of Scotland

Making a difference: Co-operative Education

From the earliest days of the Rochdale Pioneers, education has remained a central concern of the co-operative movement both in the UK and internationally. Yet the impact and reach of co-operative education is little known despite the fact that the co-operative movement has been one of the major providers of adult education in the UK for 150 years. This session explores some of the history and the transformatory agenda that has underpinned co-operative education and some of its international impact.

Chair: Nigel Todd, WEA Regional Director

Presenter: Dr Linda Shaw, Head of Research, The Co-operative College

The Best Day of the Year: 100 years of Bo'ness Children's Fair

In this session we will look at a three-year adult education project developed by the WEA and the Scottish Screen Archive, National Library of Scotland, with support from Falkirk Council and Pilton Video, to make accessible a rich archive of film relating to the people of Bo'ness. Bo'ness was once an important industrial centre in the East of Scotland and boasted a number of industries including coal mining, salt-making, shipbuilding, pottery manufacture and iron founding. These industries are now gone but the Bo'ness Children's Fair, founded in 1897, continues to be a major cultural event.

Local cinema manager Louis Dickson filmed the Bo'ness Fair from 1912, until his death in the early 1960s. His films inspired the adult education project for local people to create a documentary film telling the story of 100 years of the Bo'ness Fair. This project began in 2006 and the film *The Best Day of the Year* was premiered in the Hippodrome Cinema on 7th May 2009. In this session participants will have the opportunity to view the 35 minute film and discuss the process with members of the project team. The Bo'ness project is one example of WEA Scotland's work with museums, libraries, archives and galleries, which helps both learners and the collections, particularly through living memory/oral history projects.

Chair: Sue Selwyn, Head of Culture and Lifelong Learning, Falkirk Council

Presenters: Elizabeth Bryan, Area Tutor Organiser, WEA Scotland
Ruth Washbrook, Scottish Screen Archive, National Library of Scotland

Contributors: Helen Jeffery, Tutor, WEA Scotland
Val McKay, WEA project participant

A' Adam's Bairns: Using Political Song in Adult Education

This interactive session which will look at how to use political song with adult and community learning groups to explore the big social issues of our day such as migration, poverty, race equality and sectarianism.

Dr Fred Freeman, whose work with the National Library of Scotland has created a rich resource for schools, will present from *A' Adam's Bairns*, a CD of eighteen powerful songs about the ebb and flow of the people who call Scotland their home. The CD forms the basis of an eight week programme of two hour session plans written by Iyaah Warren who will introduce the programme and chair this session.

Iyaah's presentation will focus on the role of community learning in creating connections between communities and maintaining a sense of belonging in a diverse and changing nation. The following questions will be addressed:

- How do we see ourselves and how do others see us?
- How do we welcome people who choose Scotland as their home?
- What kind of nation do we want to become?

Chair: Iyaah Warren, Freelance Community Development Worker

Presenter: Dr Fred Freeman, Honorary Fellow in English at the University of Edinburgh
Ian Bruce, Musician