



central
ADVOCACY
partners

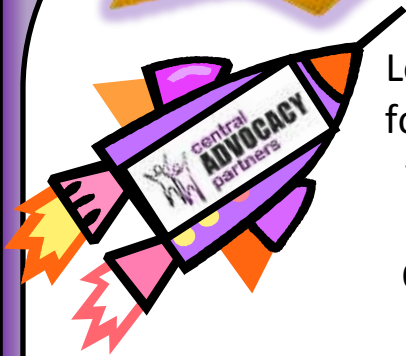
Newsletter

December 2011



What's new?

We had our Launch Party on 21st October!



Local author Alan Bissett formally launched our new service for adults and young people with learning disabilities across the Forth Valley Area. Our new organisation was officially unveiled at Stirling's Tolbooth theatre on Friday 21st October to an audience of councillors, social services staff and service users from across the Forth Valley.

Alan said 'Having a say in the decisions that affect our lives, be it at work or to do with where we live, is something that most of us take for granted', he said. 'Sadly the views of people with learning disabilities are often lost or not taken into consideration. It is great to see Central Advocacy Partners taking its lead from the people who use the service.'



The official launch of Central Advocacy Partners included music by Artlink, a live canvas-based interpretation of the event by artist Ramon Carr, and a short film by Small Majority, highlighting the personal experiences of service users.

Elizabeth Findlay,
manager of Central
Advocacy Partners, said:

"Working as one organisation will allow us not only to pool resources and expertise, but increase the level and scope of services we can offer; Ensuring that adults and young people with learning disabilities have their voices heard and can contribute in the decision making processes that impact upon their lives, is of paramount importance."



Young Person's Project Self-Advocacy Toolkit

In 2009 we began a project supporting young people with learning disabilities in Falkirk and Clackmannanshire. This project was made possible by a generous 5 years of funding by the Big Lottery. As part of this project we have been developing and piloting a self-advocacy training tool within local schools and colleges.



Learning from our pilots we have now developed a 12 week program aimed at improving the ability of young people to advocate for themselves. The program covers areas such as advocacy, listening, speaking up, rights, decision making & getting information.

Now that the toolkit has been completed a rolling program of training will be on offer for young people in Falkirk and Clackmannanshire. In the coming year the toolkit will be available to be purchased by other organisations to widen the number of young people who can benefit from this resource.



There are still places on the Falkirk course starting on Wednesday 11th January, 1pm-3pm. For more info call Cheryl on  01324 633321

Stirling Rural update

The Multi-Sport Event that took place on Friday 26th August at McLaren Leisure Centre was a great success!

Healthy Living



The Event was requested by the Rural Project and was organised with Forth Valley Disability Sports. Almost 60 people attended from all over the Forth Valley Area and participants took part in a range of activities including Boccia, Target Practise, Bowls, Board Games etc.

Feedback from Evaluation forms has been very positive and there is a great interest in forming a weekly multi sports class in Callander. The Sub Group have completed a funding application to try and make this dream a reality... so watch this space!!







New Worker

Maternity Leave Cover

As many of you know Carol went off on Maternity Leave at the beginning of October. She had a healthy wee boy called Cooper ~ congratulations to Carol!!

We are delighted to say that Jean, our Rural Drop-In Worker, has been successfully recruited to cover the position of Rural Inclusion Worker in Carol's absence. Jean is settling into her role well and will continue to help make sure Group members aspirations are met over the coming year.

If you have anything you would like to discuss about the Rural Project, you can contact Jean on  **01877 331073**.



One piece of great news is that we have secured funding for a new project!


Living A Life!

This funding forms part of the Scottish Government's Self Directed Support scheme and will continue until 2015. Two full-time Net Workers will be employed, delivering a Central Networks Project across the Forth Valley including the 'Living a Life' programme.



The funding will allow us to build closer working relationships with all services across Forth Valley, establish themed groups for those who are looking to use services on offer and increase awareness of services that are available to people in their communities.

We approached Key Community Supports, who successfully delivered the 'Living a Life' programme in Glasgow. Given its valuable experience, Central Advocacy Partners approached them with the offer of making a joint application for funding.



Through this exciting new programme an inclusion action plan is completed helping participants to focus on what they want to do and how they can impact on their community. The course enables people to look beyond traditional services to make friends, build their confidence and explore ways of maintaining and building existing and new relationships.

New Website!

Our brand new website
is now up and running!

www.centraladvocacypartners.org.uk

We have recently launched our new website. You can find information about the different services we offer.

You can also download our forms, and leaflets.

You can also see our superb new DVD telling you all about what Central Advocacy Partners does.

Go and have a look!!



Advocacy Tender update...

We have submitted our response to the Forth Valley Tender ~ the deadline for bids was 12th December 2011. The next step of our bid is delivering a presentation to service users in the New Year. This presentation will be talking about the outcomes we hope to deliver if we are successful in winning the Tender.

Having good standards and doing a job well is essential to the work of Central Advocacy Partners. But what makes it worthwhile and tells us we are effective are the positive outcomes in the lives of people we work with.



Merry Christmas

Our offices will be closed from Friday 23rd Dec, and we will be back on Wednesday 4th January.



Wishing you all Happy Holidays from all the staff and members of Central Advocacy Partners! We hope you enjoy the festive period and we will see you all again in the New Year!



If you have any questions or comments about anything in this newsletter ~ please contact Central Advocacy Partners.



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