

# **Developing the use of Online Blended Learning with Adult Literacies Learners in Scotland**

**A overview of the  
E-learning Support Project**

**September 2008 – March 2009**

**Report**

**Learning Connections Division**

**Lifelong Learning Directorate**

**Scottish Government**



## Section 1

### Project Aims

This project was developed by Learning Connections, Lifelong Learning Directorate to support local literacies practitioners in Scotland in their use of online learning with their adult literacies learners. This could be through the use of a Virtual Learning Environment such as Moodle Open Source Software or by means of using other media such as Blogs, Wikis or simply using the organisation's own website. The promotion of blended learning was particularly encouraged, and a recognition that online learning may not be appropriate for every adult literacies learner.

During the period September 2008 to June 2009, John McGrath (Chalk and Talk e-Learning Support) was appointed as a contractor to deliver the support programme. His remit was:

1. To contact the adult literacies field, and in particular all 32 adult literacies partnerships, in order to explore and discuss how the development of online / blended learning could be promoted in their local situations.
2. To identify what issues exist which make online / blended learning difficult for some areas and to offer support to bring about change as appropriate.
3. To note what approaches have been taken in those areas where online learning has already been established.
3. To establish and facilitate (along with Learning Connections staff) a support group of those who become involved in online / blended learning throughout the year.
4. To provide advice and training where necessary for literacies practitioners to develop their skills in putting the necessary technology in place to allow online learning to happen locally and to help tutors support learning online.
5. To produce, in conjunction with Learning Connections staff, a report of all the projects undertaken during the year and disseminate this via an ICT conference in June 2009.

The expected outcomes were:

- ❖ A number of new online / blended learning opportunities would be developed by literacies providers around Scotland for adult literacies learners.
- ❖ New online resources would be developed and shared with other practitioners in Scotland through the Adult Literacies Online resource bank.
- ❖ Literacies practitioners in Scotland would be better prepared to provide online learning opportunities and support for their learners.
- ❖ The lessons from the programme would be disseminated to other adult literacies practitioners throughout Scotland through a brief written report and a dissemination event to be held in June 2009.

## The Approach

1. All 32 adult literacies partnerships were contacted in order to explore, discuss, negotiate and respond to local situations with regard to the extent to which ICT / e-learning is being used routinely with adult literacies learners.
2. A website was set up to manage the programme, map activity and distribute workshop material and demonstrate technologies ([www.esupportscotland.org](http://www.esupportscotland.org))
3. Small grants were offered by Learning Connections where project ideas required some additional funding in order to help practitioners put their ideas into practice.
4. Applications for funding were assessed in December 2008, projects began in January 2009 and support was provided as required.

## An overview of the activities undertaken

1. In September 2008 discussions took place with adult literacies partnerships around Scotland by phone and email, sometimes followed up by face to face discussions.
2. Overall, 14 out of the 32 adult literacies partnerships in Scotland were funded to develop their use of online blended learning, and a further 7 partnership members tapped into non funded support provision.
3. Fifty-six tutors across the country attended 11 Moodle training workshops, 3 Wordpress workshops and 2 Moodle workshops provided remotely using web conferencing software.
4. Sixteen new websites were created, providing support to learners on a local community level, all of which will develop content until at least 2010 and many are expected to remain in place for a number of years. One of the 16 websites is a 'national' Moodle website ([eLearnScotland.org](http://eLearnScotland.org)) which was originally shared by 7 members of various Partnerships. This site became for some a stepping off point which resulted in the creation of a number of a new Moodle websites. This site will be supported initially until March 2010.

Although the programme also provided many hours of support and advice by email and Skype, it was not possible to provide all the training and support requested.

Limitations of the Moodle administration system - specifically that the Administrator for each Partnership can 'see' users from other partnerships - proved to be off putting and a concern.

The programme of support was managed through the website [www.esupportscotland.org](http://www.esupportscotland.org) which uses maps and wikis to track activity, provides the platform for web meetings and demonstrations and where workshop materials can be downloaded.

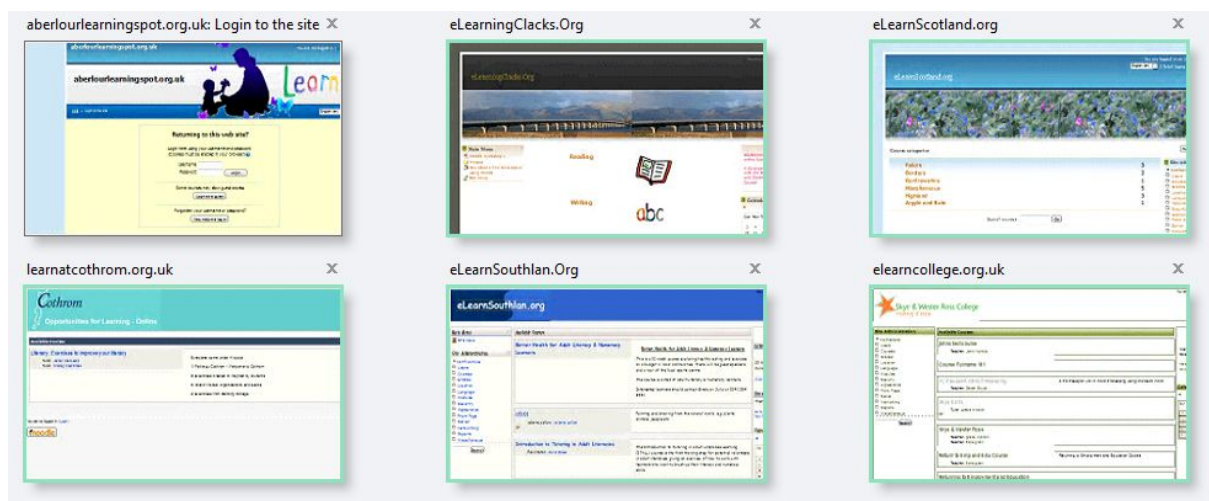
More details about the kind of activities undertaken are provided in section 2, broken down by partnership area.

## What lessons were learned?

1. In discussions and in some of the applications for funding it became clear that there is some difference of understanding about what constitutes online or blended learning.
  - a. The project used the definition of online learning as learning which takes place directly over the Internet, with the learner gaining direct access to learning materials hosted on the world wide web. Learning could take place

independently of any support from a tutor, but most likely a tutor will be available to support the learner by phone or email.

- b. Blended learning was defined as a combination of online learning and face to face provision, where each element is integrated with the other.
2. It was found that setting up online learning often took longer than people first anticipated. Tutors needed to be trained in how to use the online systems; learners who were interested in learning in this way needed to be recruited (it was recognised that online learning would not be suitable for every learner); time was needed to choose and develop suitable learning materials.
3. Confidence was an important factor in using online learning. This was both about building up the confidence of the tutors in how to use any online system such as a virtual learning environment and ensuring that learners would have a positive experience when they began using the online materials.
4. Internet access issues, or concerns about the quality of local computer hardware and software, often needed to be overcome before providers were able to move forward.
5. Local IT security concerns needed to be addressed.



**6 individual and 1 shared Moodle website were brought online through the programme**

## Section 2

### Funded Activity by partnership area

#### Aberdeenshire Literacies Partnership

Online Forums, Blogs and Social Networking  
Contact: Janette Taylor

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Aberdeenshire Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Design and run a range of workshops for adult literacies learners and tutors to educate them about the benefits and dangers of using online forums and social networking sites.
- Recruit individuals who are interested in taking part in the project and who can commit to attending the workshops and offering a minimum of 8 hours to participating in group online learning.
- Encourage learners across Aberdeenshire to engage in sharing writing, publishing poems, discussing photography, uploading videos, voicing opinions, keeping diaries and finding new opportunities to chat online with learners across the region.
- Purchase 15 headsets and webcams for the participants.
- Set up a number of online meetings with the participants, posting training to help them to engage in conversation in writing via blogs, forum and instant messaging and chatting orally by telephone conference and skype.
- Use an open source online forums such as [www.phpbb.com](http://www.phpbb.com) and link this forum into [www.bigplusaberdeenshire.co.uk](http://www.bigplusaberdeenshire.co.uk).
- Help learners create their own blog.



Aberdeenshire Literacies Partnership



MARCH - MAY 2009



OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO LEARNERS AND TUTORS



LEARN HOW TO CHAT ONLINE USING A HEADSET AND MICROPHONE, TEXT INSTANT ONLINE MESSAGES AND USE A WEBCAMERA



LEARN HOW TO SET UP YOUR OWN BLOG (WEBLOG)



**CREATE A  
ONLINE  
LEARNER  
FORUM**

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO 10 VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO WORK AS A TEAM ON A PROJECT TO LOOK AT WAYS THAT LEARNERS AND TUTORS CAN COMMUNICATE ONLINE ACROSS ABERDEENSHIRE. WE WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO SET UP A BLOG (WEB DIARY); START A FORUM, AND CHAT TO EACH OTHER ON THE INTERNET USING A WEBCAM AND HEADSET AND MICROPHONE. WE'D NEED YOU TO COMMIT ONE HOUR A WEEK FOR SIX WEEKS, AT A TIME THAT SUITS YOU. PLEASE JOIN US!

**WORK AS A TEAM . RECEIVE FREE TRAINING. PRODUCE A RESOURCE FOR OTHER LEARNERS AND TUTORS TO ACCESS. MEET NEW PEOPLE. DEVELOP NEW SKILLS. GET ACCESS TO ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU NEED.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT JANETTE TAYLOR, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ABERDEENSHIRE LITERACIES PARTNERSHIP, 01330 833862 OR [JANETTE.TAYLOR@ABERDEENSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:JANETTE.TAYLOR@ABERDEENSHIRE.GOV.UK)

## **Outcomes**

This project was self supporting and advertising was produced to recruit the first group of learners to use the site.

## **Aberlour Child Care Trust**

**Develop a Moodle VLE site**

**Contact: Ros Docherty**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Aberlour Child Care Trust to carry out the activities described below:

- Develop a Moodle VLE site for hosting literacies learning resources.
- Facilitate training for staff in how to use the online site and how to convert literacy and numeracy resources into online learning packages.
- Involve learners in converting learning resources for online access.
- Add additional literacies learning resources in the summer of 2009.

## **Outcomes**

### **Initial set up**

Due to the high level of confidentiality involved in the work of Aberlour using a shared Moodle was never regarded as a satisfactory option. A Moodle VLE was installed at [www.aberlourlearningspot.org.uk](http://www.aberlourlearningspot.org.uk). Three staff attended Moodle training workshops in the GOMA IT suite in Glasgow. A further training and development day took place on the Aberlour premises in Glasgow and one member of staff attended a forth training session in Edinburgh.

The website was customised to a design suggested by the learners, with other alterations such as background colour changed to accommodate difficulties some learners may have looking at a white screen.

The purchase of Skype certified headphones and Camtasia Studio made it possible to create instructional content. Online materials will be developed over the coming year.

### **Tutor and management**

The two family workers who took part in the training and set up of the Moodle site were very enthusiastic about the work. The training contributed to staff development and knowledge in a very positive way.

Support from the Aberlour management to participate in the project and allocate staff time for training were some of the most positive and essential factor in getting the work underway.

The time it would take for some practitioners to become skilled in using the software was underestimated and also the amount of time it would take to 'physically' do the work. However, they are now better prepared to progress the work quite quickly.

## **Learners**

Learners have been consulted and indicated positive interest in using the Moodle site. They chose the title for the site, selected and helped to design the graphics for the home page and have been consulted about the proposed content of the site.

Learners enjoy using computers and learning IT skills. This is a very practical way to help them achieve their identified outcomes for their literacy work.

One group of learners started a digital photography course and some of those skills learned will be used to add to the bank of materials. The plan is to go live one topic at a time so that the outcomes can be assessed very carefully and changes made as necessary.

The first topic developed was learning styles, followed by spelling and writing. They also hope to put some of their parenting materials online soon. This is a very practical application of literacy skills as there is a lot of reading, writing and planning skills to be used in working on them.

## **Conclusion**

This online work is regarded as essential for helping to promote good literacy skills for today, both in the home and the wider community. They believe that it will greatly add to the service they can offer to their learners and will support them in making a success of their time with Aberlour's services and make a huge change in their lifestyle and expectations.

## **Scottish Borders**

### **Confident Writing for Carers**

**Contact: Claire Stewart / Lisa Anderson**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Scottish Borders Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Convert a 10 week course called Confident Writing for Carers to a blended learning delivery option using Moodle.
- Train an adult literacies worker to do the conversion, who will in turn develop a training session for literacies practitioners and give support through development visits.
- Promote the new online version to existing and new adult literacies learners and enrol learners on the new online option.

## Outcomes

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.elearnsotland.org](http://www.elearnsotland.org).

The tutor was supported through two workplace visits with live help online, by email and telephone. The course material was developed and is currently hosted on eLearnScotland website at [www.elearnsotland.org](http://www.elearnsotland.org) but may be moved to onlineborders ([www.onlineborders.org.uk](http://www.onlineborders.org.uk)) in the future. By March 2009 the communications course 'Confident Writing for Carers' was almost fully converted from paper to online format. The course will be piloted with learners in June. A second related course 'Confident Writing for Carers Residential' is also under development.

'Confident Writing for Carers' makes great use of the Moodle Activity 'Lesson' as a way of introducing some degree of interactivity for a relatively modest amount of development. The course also makes use of Moodle Assignments, Forums, Hot Potatoes Quizzes, Moodle Quizzes, Audio and other Resources.

## Clackmannanshire

**Moodle VLE for adult literacies learners in Clackmannanshire.**

**Contact: Clark Whyte**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Clackmannanshire Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Develop a learner centred Moodle-based VLE for adult literacies learners in Clackmannanshire.
- Populate the VLE with relevant and effective literacies resources and develop tools for synchronous and asynchronous communication between tutors and learners.
- Run Moodle introductory training days for the tutors.
- Pilot the VLE with a specific group of learners before making it more widely available to all

## Outcomes

A new Moodle VLE Online Resource was developed at [www.elearningclacks.org](http://www.elearningclacks.org).

Nine tutors attended 2 on-site workshops, with each beginning the development of their own online courses during and after the sessions. Course titles include:

Independent Living  
Basic IT  
Financial Literacies  
Map & Compass  
Alpha to Omega  
Internet Research



The tutors involved formed a strong community committed to further online development.

## **CLAN Edinburgh**

**Develop and share online interactive learning materials for adult literacies learners**  
**Contact: Catherine Macrae**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow CLAN Edinburgh Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Set up a working group involving CLAN Resource Base staff and project workers in order to develop and share online interactive learning materials for adult literacies learners
- Upload these online resources to the CLAN Learn website and the national esupport website.
- Designing and delivering training related to supporting tutors and learners to accessing and use the interactive materials online.

## **Outcomes**

Additional online resource were developed at [www.clanonline.org](http://www.clanonline.org)

Tutors at CLAN Edinburgh took an already existing resource and transformed it into an icon driven online environment using images from the Coleg Gwent Moodle (<http://moodle.coleggwent.ac.uk>) and added many new features and content.

Easy to build drag-and-drop activities for learners were produced using Content Generator ([www.contentgenerator.net/](http://www.contentgenerator.net/)), PictureGridEditor ([www.tower.ac.uk/curweb/ILT/Resourcesdetail.asp?DocID=2148](http://www.tower.ac.uk/curweb/ILT/Resourcesdetail.asp?DocID=2148)) and Class Tools ([www.classtools.net](http://www.classtools.net)).

## East Lothian

### **Develop an adult literacies website for learners in East Lothian**

**Contact: Connie Crawford**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow East Lothian Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Develop an adult literacies website for learners in East Lothian, where learners / potential learners can access information about services and learn online through online literacies learning materials.
- Develop adult literacies learning resources and convert existing literacies learning materials to online format to be uploaded to the new site.
- Provide access for learners to the online resources held on the new site via learning centres, libraries and from their own computers.
- Deliver training to tutors in order for them to support learners effectively in an online environment.

### **Outcomes**

An online resource was developed at [www.alneastlothian.org](http://www.alneastlothian.org), with separate sections for words and numbers, and initial worksheets learners can download from the site. There is also a password protected area for tutor resources.

In addition to the learning areas, the site gives information on the provision available in East Lothian, referral procedures, how to become a volunteer and links to other useful sites.

## Adult Literacies Renfrewshire – Buddies for Learning

### **Convert course content (basic computing and literacies) to online learning format.**

**Contact: Sue Bates / Jacqui Munro**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Renfrewshire Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Convert course content (basic computing and literacies) to online learning format.
- Upload the online learning materials to the Moodle national site [www.elearnscotland.org](http://www.elearnscotland.org)
- Develop and deliver tutor training for local tutors to use the Moodle site and support learners in this online environment.
- Recruit adult literacies learners to use the new online materials and provide support for them.

## Outcomes

New Online Resource to be Developed at [www.elearnscotland.org](http://www.elearnscotland.org)

Due to the relocation of Renfrewshire Adult Literacies Partnership this development is currently on hold until May / June.

## Falkirk

### Mobile Learning

Contact: Sarah Clark

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Falkirk Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Purchase 10 PDA devices to enable literacies learners to access online literacies learning resources from a range of locations within the community.
- Support the development / adaptation of learning resources for hosting in an online environment.
- Provide appropriate training for tutors and learners in using the PDA devices and accessing the learning resources.
- Pilot the mobile learning project with one group of learners in a regeneration area in the first instance before rolling the programme out to all other relevant learners within the Falkirk adult literacies partnership, including learners using more conventional pc-based Internet access.
- After the initial pilot stage, adapt current materials as appropriate for use with mobile devices and standard pc Internet access and develop new materials.

## Outcomes

Mobile devices were purchased and a new Online Resource is being developed at [www.elearnscotland.org/mobile](http://www.elearnscotland.org/mobile).

Three members of the partnership attended Moodle training and this was followed up with two site visits. Due to delays in the delivery of the PDA devices the programme is only now beginning to take place. The best way to use these devices is still being investigated and a WordPress website was set at the above address up to allow learners and tutors to blog about their activities. Tutors also have access to eLearnScotland. Possible projects involve 'geocaching' ([www.geocaching.com/](http://www.geocaching.com/)) and local investigations.

They planned to use the mobile devices to enhance existing learning programmes for adult learning literacies learners, believing that using these mobile devices will enable learners to use online facilities even in centres and venues without 3G and broadband.

It is anticipated that this will also enable learners to carry out research using online resources and multimedia options to produce projects which can be posted as podcasts and on You Tube, increasing their interaction with the community and other learners.

The mobile learning project is being piloted with one group of learners in the first instance. After the initial pilot stage, current materials may be adapted for use with mobile devices and development of new materials.

It is anticipated that the mobile learning project will enhance existing courses and provision providing opportunities such as:

- ❖ Use the internet in different locations
- ❖ Make group projects and presentations
- ❖ Evidence work audio visually – eg speech or movie recordings

The approach will be to enhance and support existing provision and not as a sole method of delivery.

## Highland

### **Laptop for online demonstrations / A Website for literacies learning**

**Contact: Mark Richardson**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Highland Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Purchase a computer, printer and scanner to provide an Internet access point for the ABE resource base in Inverness-shire.
- Provide training for adult literacies tutors in Inverness-shire in using and developing online learning resources.
- Develop a structured set of downloadable activities / worksheets with a focus initially on writing development.
- Set up and maintain a Moodle site to host the learning resources.
- Provide support for adult literacies learners to access the new online resources in a blended learning approach for existing learners, including both one to one and group learners.

## Outcomes

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.icandothat.info](http://www.icandothat.info).

Following presentations at Highland Partners in Practice and Tutor Conferences, some tutors expressed an interest in Moodle and other in having a website for learners. A Wordpress website was installed at the above address and interested tutors were given

access to a Highland section in the eLearnScotland website. Moodle training took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The funding bought two internet capable PCs that are build like for like with those found in libraries across Highland. This is seen as an ideal starting point to progress participants to free internet access in the future. This was the first time they had been able to provide internet access to their learners at ABE Inverness and was a huge step forward in itself.

A suggestion box was run among learners and tutors for the domain name.

Some of the funding provided development hours for a tutor to use this time to populate the website. A small blended learning team was put together and includes; one sessional tutors (administrator for the site), one Literacy Support Worker and one Literacy Learner. All in all everyone felt they were progressing well from a very limited starting point.

Tutors and learners were set up with free emails accounts. One learning group is developing some specific learning materials to go in the “download and try section” of the site. The funding enabled tutors to start other things now with the confidence that they have the hardware and tutoring team that can progress online blended learning in Inverness. The next step is to get a Moodle VLE working on the website.

## **North Lanarkshire Adult Literacy Partnership**

**Further develop your Moodle-based VLE**

**Contact: Lucy Roy**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow North Lanarkshire Adult Literacy Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Further develop your Moodle-based VLE for adult literacies learners in North Lanarkshire.
- Provide continuing staff development for your Moodle Working Group and cascade this training to other key staff.
- Provide additional web hosting for your Moodle site.
- Support sessional staff to maintain the site, communicate with the site host as required, and adapt / develop adult literacies resources for the site.

## **Outcomes**

An online resource was developed at [www.northlanarkshirebigplus.org](http://www.northlanarkshirebigplus.org).

This project was largely self supporting. Prior to this programme of support North Lanarkshire Adult Literacy Partnership developed their own Moodle website and as a result much of the work funded by this programme took place in house. However, three members

of staff attended Moodle training at GOMA and some have since put their new skill to work developing the site.

By having regular Moodle meetings made up of staff from the North Lanarkshire Adult Literacy partnership including Cumbernauld College staff, the partnership were able to keep both momentum and progress going. The only difficulty was finding dedicating development worker time to progress the online/blended learning approach. Our Moodle Working group attended a meeting with other local authority partnerships to share our online/blended learning experiences with one another.

We feel that the online/blended learning has been an exciting and innovative project which is crucial to 21<sup>st</sup> century Literacies. We are looking forward to continuing with the development of our Moodle online learning environment and see it as a crucial tool for providing a quality literacy service to North Lanarkshire learners.

## **Skye & Wester Ross College**

### **Set up a course space to be developed for adult literacies learners using Moodle**

**Contact: Grace Wilcock**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Skye and Wester Ross College to carry out the activities described below:

- Set up a course space to be developed for adult literacies learners using Moodle which would be linked to the college student pages.
- Train key literacies staff in how to develop the site and how to upload resources.
- Develop suitable adult literacies online learning resources and upload these to the site.
- Produce user-friendly information sheets and distribute these to learners to provide guidance in use of the online resource.
- Encourage use of online/blended learning with adult learners in Skye and Wester Ross.

## **Outcomes**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.elearncollege.org.uk](http://www.elearncollege.org.uk).

Staff began with the intention of developing materials on the national Moodle eLearnScotland.org but after a period of time they decided that the Administration limitations of a shared Moodle would be unsatisfactory for an organisation that could possibly be enrolling hundreds of learners online. Consequently a Moodle VLE was installed at the above address and suitably themed.

On-site training took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye. Six members of staff took part and are currently developing online resources on the themes:

Returning to Employment and Education  
PC Passport Word

Internet Safety  
Front Office Skills  
Digital Media Elements for Applications  
Core Mathematics 2

All staff on the college have been made aware of this new development via our staff updates and are invited to seek in-house training if they would like to develop their own online/blended course.

Staff attended training on Moodle, were encouraged by the Moodle features, and are developing ways to implement them.

Learners are dispersed throughout Skye and Wester Ross and it is hoped that the development of online learning/blended approaches will offer an alternative to centre-based courses with low numbers. In addition, they believe a range of short and full-time courses will benefit from the additionality of web-based elements for learning and that this will encourage some independent study skills for learners.

## **South Lanarkshire Adult Literacies Partnership**

**Develop current adult literacies learners' website to offer interactive learning materials and online learning support for adult learners.**

**Contact: Julia Ross**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow South Lanarkshire Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Develop a learner centred Moodle-based VLE for adult literacies learners in Clackmannanshire.
- Populate the VLE with relevant and effective literacies resources and develop tools for synchronous and asynchronous communication between tutors and learners.
- Run Moodle introductory training days for the tutors.
- Pilot the VLE with a specific group of learners before making it more widely available.

## **Outcomes**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.elearnsouthlan.org](http://www.elearnsouthlan.org).

South Lanarkshire Adult Literacies Partnership has a well developed learner's website at [www.writing-about.net](http://www.writing-about.net) on which they wished to build. One drawback of their current site is that only one member of staff has the required skills and access to post up materials and an early objective was to find some way to open access up to others. Following an on-site meeting where various options were explored, a Moodle website was picked out as the best solution.

A Moodle VLE was installed at the above address and suitably themed. Four members of staff attended Moodle training in GOMA and a further two attended on-site training in Hillhouse Library in Hamilton. Members of staff who took part in training are currently developing online resources on the themes:

Better Health for Adult Literacy & Numeracy Learners  
Introduction to Tutoring in Adult Literacies  
Football Literacy and Numeracy  
Literacy and genealogy  
Adult Literacy and Numeracy

Some of the locations where ALN and Community Learning Tutors work (especially in rural areas) don't always have access to the Internet, so it was vital to work closely in partnership with Libraries, for instance, to give learners access to our Moodle where they want it. The service is working with Council's ICT Support team to try to find ways of integrating the Moodle site with existing ICT systems, if this is possible.

## **Stirling**

### **Pilot a Moodle VLE for online learning**

**Contact: Isabel Cumming**

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Stirling Adult Literacies Partnership to carry out the activities described below:

- Pilot a Moodle VLE for online learning with a selection of adult literacies learners in Stirling.
- Train part time staff to create and support online and blended learning for drop in sessions and to support learning at home.
- Purchase headsets and speaker sets for supporting learners and for use with the learning materials.
- Encourage other tutors and learners to use and contribute materials regularly on the online literacies site.

## **Outcomes**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.stirlinglearning.org](http://www.stirlinglearning.org).

Five members of staff took part on-site Moodle training at Raploch Education and Community Campus in Stirling with the intention of developing materials on the national Moodle eLearnScotland.org. After a period of experimentation and development staff decided that the Administration limitations of a shared Moodle were of concern and as a result a Moodle VLE was installed at the above address where online materials are currently under development.



## Western Isles / Cothrom

### Develop Moodle Site

Contact: Agnes MacDonald / Thomas Fisher

The purpose of the Grant was to allow Cothrom Ltd to carry out the activities described below:

- Set up a VLE for adult literacies learners in the Western Isles.
- Initially develop and set up short courses on grammar, punctuation, cloze reading etc. on the VLE.
- Train all the tutors in how to use the online environment, include how to support learners with the ICT element and adapting materials for use in the VLE.
- Cascade the training and introduction to online learning to other providers in the CLAN Western Isles Adult Literacies Partnership.
- Encourage all adult literacies learners to use the online materials.

### Outcomes

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.learnatcothrom.org.uk](http://www.learnatcothrom.org.uk).

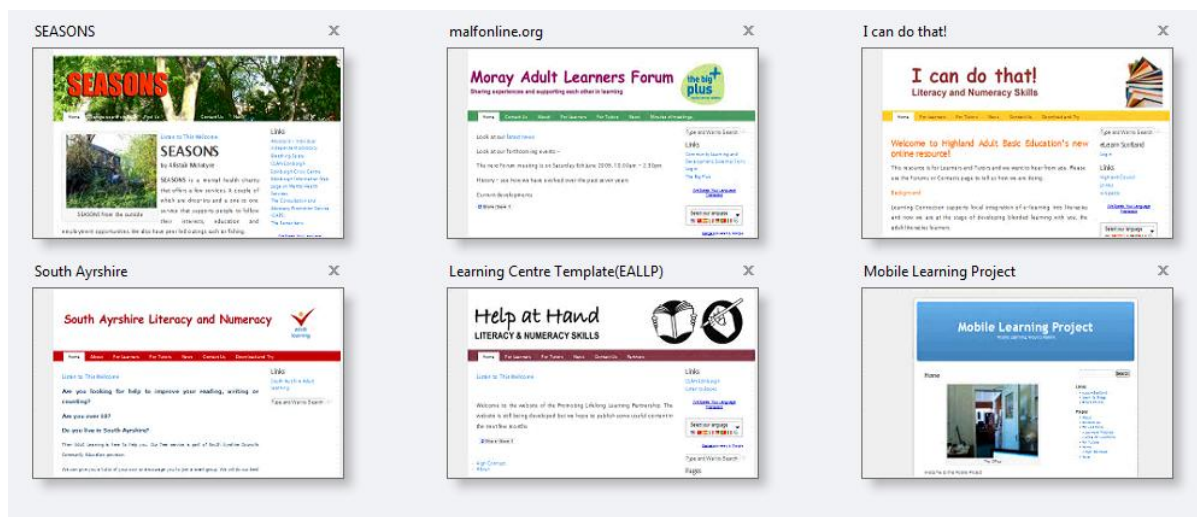
A Moodle VLE was installed at the above address and suitably themed. Cothrom Ltd are based in the Western Isles and travel difficulties and the time limitations got in the way of providing face to face Moodle training on site. Staffs were instead supported through two online workshops with the tutor at the receiving end working simultaneously on two computers – one PC to view transmitted demonstrations using Dimdim shared desktop and a second PC to allow the tutor to try each step for themselves.

This proved very successful and a further follow up online workshop allowed one tutor to reach a level of confidence whereby they felt able to disseminate Moodle training to other staff.

The course currently under development 'Listen and Write' contains a high level of interactivity using uploaded Hot Potatoes exercises and video.

## Section 3

### Non Funded Supported Activity by partnership area



Many of the WordPress websites were created as a part of Non Funded support

## Seasons

### A website for literacies learners

**Contact: Karen MacLean (CLAN Edinburgh) / Hilary Morrison**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.seasonsonline.org.uk](http://www.seasonsonline.org.uk).

SEASONS is a mental health charity that offers a number of services. ( S - for Skills E - for Experience A - for Activities S - for Social O - for Opportunities N - for Networks S - for Support ) Following two on-site visits a Wordpress website was installed at the above address which continues to develop and contains almost entirely learner authored content.

## West Lothian

### Moodle training for ESOL tutors

**Contact: Ruth Plevin**

Five members of staff attended on-site Moodle training using the Learning Connections Training Moodle. Further training took place at the end of April.

## East Ayrshire

### A website for literacies learners

**Contact: Tommy Burns**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.eastayrshirellp.org /](http://www.eastayrshirellp.org/)

[www.eastayrshireclld.org](http://www.eastayrshireclld.org).

Following workshops about the programme of support presented at East Ayrshire CLD Partnership Stakeholder Seminar in Kilmarnock the need for an easy to use website for tutor and learners resulted in the Wordpress websites installed at the above address.

Three members of staff took part in an on-site workshop. These sites are currently under development and there are some issues with the IT department to be resolved.

## Orkney

### **The Learning Link Website**

**Contact: Linda Copland**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.thelearninglinkorkney.co.uk](http://www.thelearninglinkorkney.co.uk).

The Learning Link specialises in Adult Education and is part of Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning and Development Service.

Staff at the Learning Link had developed a website using Dream Weaver but had not come to any arrangement regarding hosting and contacted this programme to try to do that. Their HTML website was installed at the above address and FTP arrangements were made to allow them to update the site themselves.

A number of difficulties were overcome – the council firewall does not allow FTP actions so staff update the website from home. The council firewall also does not allow the emailing of zip files – so files were exchanged using the file upload facilities on eSupportScotland.org. A number of hours of support and advice by email and telephone were provided.

## Moray

### **A website for literacies learners**

**Contact: Althea Forbes**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.malfoonline.org](http://www.malfoonline.org).

Moray Adult Literacies Partnership contacted the programme as they saw a place to have an easy to edit website for their learners. A WordPress site was installed and five learners and two staff took part in a workshop. The site is currently under development.

## South Ayrshire

### **A website for literacies learners**

**Contact: Zoe Kennedy**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.elearnscotland.org/south-ayrshire](http://www.elearnscotland.org/south-ayrshire).

South Ayrshire Literacies Partnership contacted the programme as they saw a place to have an easy to edit website for their learners. A WordPress site was installed at the above address and one member of staff took part in the East Ayrshire workshop. The site is currently under development.

## **Argyle and Bute**

**A website for literacies learners**

**Contact: Willie Brown**

A new Online Resource was developed at [www.elearnsotland.org](http://www.elearnsotland.org).

Argyle and Bute Partnership Literacies contacted the programme to request access to eLearnScotland.org where they plan to develop materials.

## Appendix

### 1. Technologies used

Moodle VLE - [www.moodle.org](http://www.moodle.org)

Wordpress - [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org)

Dimdim - [www.dimdim.com](http://www.dimdim.com)

Skype - [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

Content generator - <http://www.contentgenerator.net>

Picture Grid Editor - <http://www.tower.ac.uk/curweb/ilt/resourcesdetail.asp?DocID=2148>

### 2. Useful websites from the projects

<http://moodle.coleggwent.ac.uk/>

<http://classtools.net/>

[www.geocaching.com/](http://www.geocaching.com/) )

Doodle - <http://www.doodle.com/>

### 3. Moodle workshops delivered

Location	Number of Workshops	Number of Attendees
Goma	4	16
West Lothian	1	5
Clackmannanshire	2	9
Aberlour	1	3
Skye	2	6
Stirling	2	6
Live online Workshops (Cothrom)	2	1

### 4. Wordpress Workshops

Location	Number of Workshops	Number of Attendees
Inverness	1	4
Keith	1	7
Kilmarnock	1	4

## 5. Websites Created

[www.aberlourlearningspot.org.uk](http://www.aberlourlearningspot.org.uk)

[www.eastayrshirecld.org](http://www.eastayrshirecld.org)

[www.eastayrshirellp.org](http://www.eastayrshirellp.org)

[www.elearningclacks.org](http://www.elearningclacks.org)

[www.elearnsotland.org](http://www.elearnsotland.org)

[www.elearnsouthlan.org](http://www.elearnsouthlan.org)

[www.esupportscotland.org](http://www.esupportscotland.org)

[www.learnatcothrom.org.uk](http://www.learnatcothrom.org.uk)

[www.seasonsonline.org.uk](http://www.seasonsonline.org.uk)

[www.thelearninglinkorkney.co.uk](http://www.thelearninglinkorkney.co.uk)

[www.malfoonline.org](http://www.malfoonline.org)

[www.elearncollege.org.uk](http://www.elearncollege.org.uk)

[www.icandothat.info](http://www.icandothat.info)

[www.stirlinglearning.org](http://www.stirlinglearning.org)

[www.elearnsotland.org/mobile](http://www.elearnsotland.org/mobile)

[www.elearnsotland.org/south-ayrshire](http://www.elearnsotland.org/south-ayrshire)