

## The Emporium of Dangerous Ideas



### The Emporium of Dangerous Ideas

6-19 June 2014



For the past two years College Development Network has curated the Festival of Dangerous Ideas – a festival aimed at re-establishing the importance of dangerous ideas as agents of change in education – shifting the axis of what is possible.

The festival has been highly successful, but we didn't think that 'festival' with its connotations of celebration and one off events really reflected what we are trying to do.

We have decided to develop the festival into an Emporium of Dangerous Ideas – purveying the finest danger in education. In fact there will be many emporia where the focus will be on selling, exchanging and creating the education of the future. Events will be happening across the country, developed and facilitated by a range of partners, but always with the aim of challenging what exists and thinking about how it could be.

The Emporium of Dangerous Ideas will be launched by way of an 'invisible launch' on Friday 6 June 2014 at The Riverside Museum, Glasgow.

For more information and to view the calendar of events confirmed so far, please visit: [www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/dangerousideas](http://www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/dangerousideas)

## Supporting Students with Caring Responsibilities



The emphasis in the Scottish Government's 'Caring Together: The Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015' is on helping carers to manage their role with confidence, in good health and to have a life of their own outside caring. College Development Network is supporting this agenda through the development of a range of awareness raising resources relevant to those working within the college context. We developed these resources in partnership with young adult /adult carers who shared their experiences with us through a series of video case studies. The key aims of the materials are to:

- identify the range of issues and barriers faced by students with caring responsibilities
- be more aware of how to meet the needs of students with caring responsibilities
- identify changes in practice in order to support students with caring responsibilities.

These resources meet the criteria for the *Equal Partners in Care (EPIc): Core Principles for achieving better outcomes for carers and young carers, Level 1: Carer Aware* and will be available from the end of March.

We are holding an event on Wednesday 7 May 2014 in order to profile the work colleges and College Development Network are involved in. We are keen to hear about what you are doing to support this agenda so please get in touch.

In addition, if you have any queries regarding either the training materials or developments in this area, please phone 01786 892051 or email: [sandy.maclean@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.maclean@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk)

## Credit Rating for Co-operative Learning Course



College Development Network's 'Co-operative Learning: Principles and Practice' course has now been credit rated by Border's College at SCQF Level 8. Candidates will participate in experiential training over two days and will then be required to apply the co-operative learning methodology to their teaching practice. At a recall event candidates will share experiences on how they have met the challenges of co-operative learning in their classroom. With ongoing support from College Development Network, they will demonstrate the capacity to reflect on the use of the methodology so engage in a process of continuous improvement. The focus of the course is to embed the co-operative learning methodology into the learning process. It is not about learning gimmicky new strategies, it is about having an enduring impact on the learner. Although the elements of co-operative learning do not change, College Development Network will customise the course to meet the specific needs of the candidates.

This course will be delivered by appropriately qualified personnel at College Development Network. The programme may also be delivered by approved associates on behalf of College Development Network. Approved associates will normally be learning and teaching practitioners who have successfully completed this programme or have previous experience of delivering and implementing the co-operative learning methodology.

The target group for the course is teaching and support staff in colleges and other learning environments. There are no formal entry requirements; however those undertaking the course must have the opportunity to implement the methodology with groups. The course prepares candidates for further study of learning and teaching in a co-operative environment and will be useful as a complement to the TQFE or PDAs in Teaching in Further Education. It will also be useful to support staff who facilitate groups.

Congratulations to Jane Pickthall at Moray College UHI who is the first candidate to achieve the Co-operative Learning: Principles and Practice certificate at SCQF Level 8. She based her assignment on her work with HNC Events students. Jane said: 'I am still finding so many of your tips and techniques helpful in my classes and the whole experience has been really worthwhile. Thank you'.

For more information about co-operative learning, please email:  
[aileen.duffy@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:aileen.duffy@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk)  
or phone 01786 892009.

## Support for Employer Engagement: Developing New Skill Sets

It is increasingly becoming a requirement of merged colleges to broaden the roles of academic staff to include customer engagement and market intelligence as part of their remit. This will require staff to develop a new, enhanced skill set in order to provide consistently high levels of service.

College Development Network is currently working with Skills Development Scotland (SME support) and the three finalists from the Employer Engagement category of our 2013 Annual Awards to consider the following:

- Development of a shared Customer Engagement Strategy
- CPD needs around customer engagement and commercial awareness
- Encouragement to embrace new ways of working
- Potential implementation of new mechanisms to track customer engagement data
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of new ways of working and dissemination across the sector.

The intention of this project is to focus on the needs of Small to Medium Enterprises, hence the work will involve working closely with the SDS SME Manager. We then aim to disseminate what has been learnt to the sector, with early indications showing that the formation of an Employer Engagement Network may be popular.

For more information, please email:  
[colin.buchanan@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:colin.buchanan@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk)  
or phone 01786 892041.

# Marketing Awards 2014



Our 16th Marketing Awards took place on Wednesday 26 February 2014 at Arta in Glasgow.  
This year's winners are:

sponsored by:



**Integrated Marketing Campaign**  
Gold: Ayrshire College



**Promotional Literature**  
Gold: North East Scotland College



**Customer Experience**  
Gold: Forth Valley College



**Digital Marketing**  
Gold: Dundee and Angus College



**Events**  
Gold: Dundee and Angus College



**Internal Communications**  
Gold: New College Lanarkshire



**Students' Award for Prospectus**  
Gold: North East Scotland College



**Students' Award for Website**  
Gold: Glasgow Kelvin College



**Grand Prix**  
Winner: Dundee and Angus College

For a full list of winners, photos and to find out more about the winning projects, please visit:  
[www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/marketingawards](http://www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/marketingawards)

# Anticipating Reasonable Adjustments

Colleges provide a variety of services for staff and students and the way in which these services are provided may present barriers which prevent people with impairments from fully accessing and benefiting from these services.



These disabling barriers may be physical (the design of the built environment), procedural (the way a service is delivered) and social (lack of awareness, negative attitudes towards disabled people – whether conscious or unconscious). People with different impairments, and people who disclose similar impairments, may experience different disabling barriers.

Colleges have a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people are not substantially disadvantaged compared to people who are not disabled. These may include:

- altering or disapplying a provision, criteria or practice
- altering physical features
- providing auxiliary aids
- providing information in accessible formats.

In addition to making individual adjustments, colleges are also legally obliged to anticipate the requirements of disabled students and people who use their services. Environments, learning

and teaching and the way services are provided are part of a strategic approach to ensure inclusion from the outset.

College Development Network's Access and Inclusion Forum and college equality practitioners have identified a need for a refresher session on anticipating reasonable adjustments.

The session which takes place on Tuesday 25 March in Argyll Court, Stirling, will focus on two core areas:

1. Creating a learning environment that values and respects equality, diversity and inclusion
2. Creating a learning environment where diverse needs are accommodated and included.

The objectives are to:

- identify what disability, impairment and reasonable adjustments mean in practice in the classroom
- raise awareness of the diversity of disabled experiences within colleges
- share challenges and good practice in reasonable adjustments
- identify how to anticipate, remove and prevent barriers for disabled learners
- consider the role of staff and assistive technologies in providing reasonable adjustments.

The session will be facilitated by College Development Network and include contributions from Equality Challenge Unit, LEAD Scotland and JISC RSC. You can book online at <http://events.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/events/show/4886>.

For more information, please email: [suzanne.marshall@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:suzanne.marshall@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk) or phone 01786 892046.

## Join the Conversation



@ColDevNet

[www.facebook.com/collegedevelopmentnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/collegedevelopmentnetwork)

[www.linkedin.com/company/college-development-network](http://www.linkedin.com/company/college-development-network)

## Open Educational Resources (OER)

# Re:Source

Clear messages coming from the sector include the need for resource development to support learning, teaching and assessment. This with the gathering pace to provide Open Educational Resources (OER) means that Re:Source is a potential success story for colleges to share curriculum resources and materials published under an open licence. The Scottish Government has stated that there is a need for a 'serious conversation' around OER. Re:Source provides the platform for sharing of resources. College Development Network is busy working to 'stock the cupboard' but we need support from the sector to move OER forward. Current activity includes:

- Signposting a range of resources through the Re:Source blog facility that may be relevant to specific curriculum areas. In February we highlighted resources for hairdressing and beauty and land-based programmes.
- Creation of themed collections. In the next couple of months we shall be building resource collections for Health and Social Care and Food Manufacture built around specific awards.
- Signposting of resources created by Education Scotland to support the new qualifications – Nationals 4 and 5 and Higher.
- Migration of content from SQA collections to Re:Source.
- Partnership working with Skills Development Scotland to develop a suite of resources published under an open licence to support the delivery of Certificate of Work Readiness.
- Showcasing the potential of Re:Source at a national OER conference in April.
- Working in partnership with Mimas (University of Manchester) to create the themed collections.

In the next few weeks we shall be contacting curriculum leads to release some exemplars of curriculum materials connected to some awards. The aim of this work is to develop confidence in sharing materials under an open licence.

For more information about Re:Source and/or OER, please email: [garry.cameron@collegedevnet.ac.uk](mailto:garry.cameron@collegedevnet.ac.uk) or phone 01786 892115.

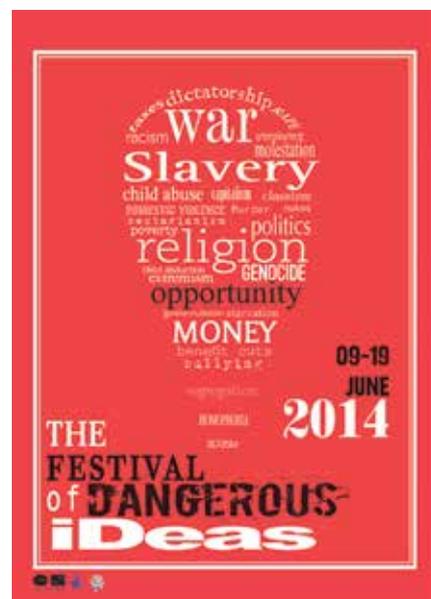
## Dangerous Designs

As part of The Emporium of Dangerous Ideas, College Development Network has tapped into the creativity of students within the sector with a poster design competition. Entries came from students in a number of colleges and the posters were then judged by a panel of design experts and members of The Emporium of Dangerous Ideas steering group and announced at the Emporium and planning conference held on Friday 31 January 2014 in Stirling.



The overall winner was Nikki McGowan from West College Scotland. Nikki's prize was £200 plus a placement with a top design/advertising agency. His poster design will be used to promote the overall Emporium this year. Runners up were Liam Murray from Borders College and Noora Bakhait from West College Scotland.

The endeavour has been such a success that we plan to involve colleges and students in design aspects of our work at College Development Network more regularly and will be discussing the opportunities to incorporate these into the curriculum with college leaders.



## Curriculum for Excellence

The Scottish Government has supported the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in the sector through provision of funding that facilitates a range of professional learning opportunities. Activity this year has focused on:

- Learning and teaching
- Assessment and New Qualifications
- Learner journeys
- Communication of information through the Curriculum for Excellence pages on College Development Network website.



Work in progress includes:

- A series of webinars focusing on assessment approaches
- School-college partnership working – gathering the success stories from the sector
- Specific events related to Qualifications and feedback to move learning forward.

Given the focus on 16-19 year olds in the sector, we are delivering a series of behaviour management webinars with a focus on creating positive learning environments.

In addition, we are busy scoping out the next programme of support for 2014-15 based on feedback from the sector and a range of partners.

For more information, please email:

[garry.cameron@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:garry.cameron@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk)  
or phone 01786 892115.

## Safeguarding in Colleges



In January, College Development Network delivered an online safety webinar entitled '10 Things colleges need to know about online safety'. The webinar provided an update on current developments and implications for safeguarding policies and procedures. Over 40 participants signed up for the webinar reflecting the levels of interest and 'duty of care' obligations for colleges to consider around online safety.

College Development Network has also been out and about delivering professional learning for staff with additional responsibility for safeguarding. As the sector works towards regionalisation, colleges have requested sessions for colleagues new to the role and managing safeguarding across a number of campuses.

The Annual Safeguarding Conference will take place on Thursday 22 May 2014. The main themes for the conference will focus on safeguarding in specific circumstances:

- Honour based violence
- Health and wellbeing – young people
- Equality and diversity.

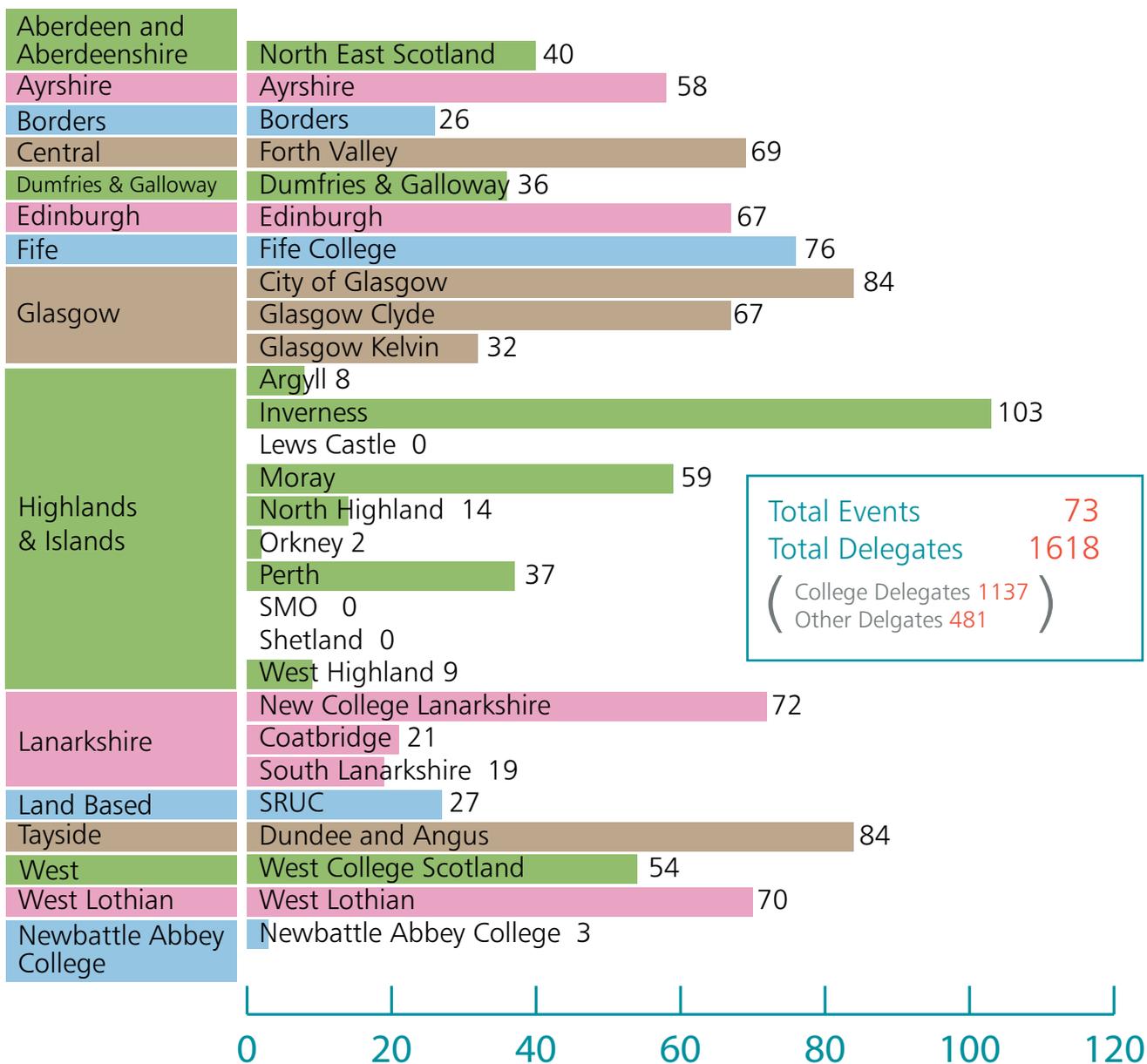
Finally, the online safety programme will be available at the end of April and will be accessed through College Development Network's professional learning platform.

For more information about safeguarding, please email:

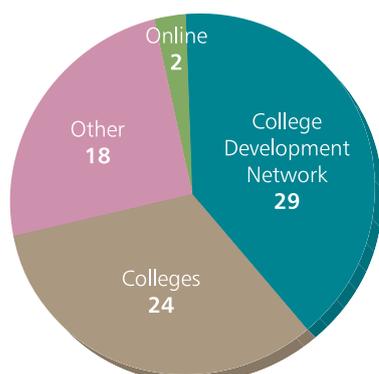
[garry.cameron@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:garry.cameron@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk)  
or phone 01786 892115.

# Events Update

College Development Network has delivered a wide range of CPD activities for staff in colleges between 01 November 2013 and 31 January 2014.



Number of Events by venue:

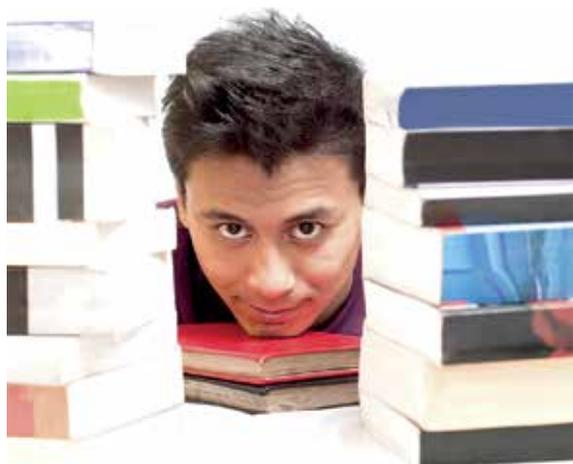


## Supported Meetings:

College Development Network held **66** supported meetings for **429** delegates at Argyll Court, Stirling.

To view a list of all forthcoming events and book online, please visit:  
<http://events.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/events>

## From Mindless to Mindful Education!



Mindfulness is a particular way of paying attention. It is the mental faculty of purposefully bringing awareness to one's experience in the present moment. It can be applied to sensory experience, thoughts, and emotions by using sustained attention and noticing our experience without reacting. Its origins sit firmly in the East but over the last 40 years it has increasingly been taught in a secular form and simplified to suit a Western context. In the 1970s anecdotal and research findings about the ability of mindfulness practices to reduce unhealthy psychological symptoms triggered interest in mindfulness as a healthcare intervention. Since then mindfulness has become a successful mainstream influence in medicine, psychology, corporate environments, and now education. Thirty years of research and, more recently, brain science, offer compelling evidence to support the use of mindfulness in education.

Embedding mindfulness practices into education could be seen as a dangerous idea but the evidence base would suggest that it could be dangerous not to practice daily mindfulness based interventions and embed these into our daily lives! The application of mindfulness by students and educators has the potential to improve academic achievement, mental health,

and inter and intra-personal relationships. It is increasingly recognised as an essential way to develop the capacity for attention and awareness, creating optimal conditions for teaching and learning and creativity.

We are holding a one day event on Thursday 12 June 2014 to continue the mindfulness conversations begun in the Festival of Dangerous Ideas. Some of the topics debated will look at how mindfulness based interventions can support the development of:

- resilience
- learning and teaching
- critical skills
- leadership skills
- habits of mind
- relationship managements skills
- creativity.

We are keen to hear from any of you who are developing or embedding mindfulness based interventions in your educational setting so please get in touch with us in advance of the event and we will make sure we give you are given a platform on the day.

Please email

[sandy.maclean@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.maclean@collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk) or phone 01786 892051. There will be opportunities to network, share practice and further develop our mindfulness practice.

To view the programme and book online, please visit:

[www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/dangerousideas](http://www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/dangerousideas)



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