

Provider Post



LearnDirect
SCOTLAND

Coming to an area near you

Workshops aimed at helping providers to get the most out of the provider opportunity management tool (PROMT) were held in Aberdeen, Inverness, Stirling and Dundee recently.

PROMT enables providers to submit and manage their own learning information on the national learning opportunities database (NLOD). The NLOD currently holds details of more than 82,000 quality-assured learning opportunities, from over 1200 learning providers available at almost 4000 venues across Scotland.

At the free workshops, providers found out:

- how to manage their information with PROMT
- how to update their information at a time, place and pace to suit them
- where, when and how their course information is accessed
- what the future holds for the NLOD



- how our learning information specialists can support providers
- how to maximise media coverage for their organisations.

The workshops offer face-to-face instruction and a chance to meet other providers and our learning information specialists.

More workshops will be held in other areas over the coming months.

To find out more about PROMT and forthcoming workshops please call:

0141 285 6100

or visit: www.lds4partners.com

Our apologies

During August and September, some providers may have experienced difficulties when using PROMT and learndirect.scotland and [ILA Scotland](http://ila.scotland) websites.

This was due to a much higher level of activity than anticipated during this time. We have now enhanced the service to accommodate higher demand, but will continue to monitor the situation

and take any action necessary to ensure this does not happen in future.

If you do experience any further issues, please contact your learning information specialist on 0141 285 6100.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The learndirect scotland Pledge to Learners

We undertake to:

- offer the time, place, pace and style of learning that most closely meets your needs
- give clear information that helps you make the best personal choices about learning programmes and maintain control of your learning
- provide learning materials that are relevant to your own personal and work interests and actively involve you in practical examples, exercises and experience
- enable you to monitor your progress and record your achievements as you go, not just at the end of a complete programme
- provide you with access to the specialist support you need, when you need it
- work with you to develop the skills that help you to learn and stay learning
- give you the chance to relate your learning to your own longer term ambitions
- help you feel part of a wider learning community and put you in touch with other people studying the same things
- link your learning to key areas of your life such as work, family, citizenship and your own personal development
- encourage you to value learning and see it add value to your life.

How do we deliver the Pledge?

learndirect scotland believes this commitment to learners can only be delivered by building relationships with providers who share this vision. For this reason, we work closely with branded learning centres to help them provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment where learners can make guided choices about what, how and when they learn.

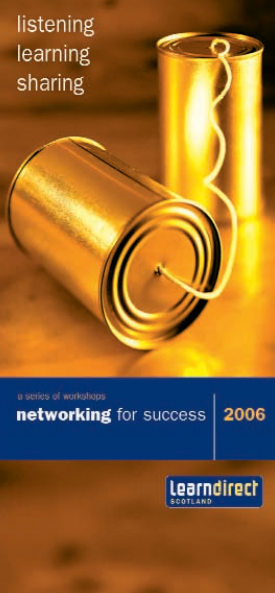
More than 500 learning centres in Scotland have signed up to the Pledge to Learners to become branded learning centres. The organisations making this commitment are diverse and include community centres, libraries, colleges and workplaces.

Branded learning centres not only gain a recognised quality standard, but receive ongoing support from their field-based learning development officer (LDO)

and access to almost 500 free e-learning computer courses for staff development and learner use.

Networking for Success workshops are held annually in various Scottish locations, giving learning centre staff the chance get together to explore issues and best practice with colleagues across the network. In addition, when learning centres have been branded for six months, they are eligible to apply for ILA Scotland approved provider status.

To find out more about becoming a branded learning centre, visit www.lds4partners.com



Changes to ILA Scotland

Changes to the ILA Scotland scheme mean that more courses are approved than ever before.

Learners who earn more than £15,000 a year can now claim £100 towards any course or module certified at SCQF level 6 or below.

In addition, learners earning less than £15,000 a year are now able to claim £200 towards uncertified ICT courses.

Lesley Baird, Learning Information Services Manager said, "This is a fantastic opportunity, for both learners and providers. It means almost everyone in Scotland is eligible for a wider range of ILA Scotland approved courses.

"Every ILA Scotland provider in the country should benefit, because more of their courses will be accessible to more learners."

How can I take advantage of these changes?

- see if you are eligible for the ILA Scotland scheme, either by checking the website on www.ilascotland.org.uk, or calling the learning information services team on 0141 285 6100
- if you are currently ILA Scotland registered, review your courses: there will probably be some which are approved now which weren't before, or which were only available under the £200 scheme previously but are now eligible for both the £100 and £200 offers
- request these courses again on PROMT – ILA Scotland courses will not change offer type automatically.

One stop shop for Highlands and Islands

The route to increased business performance and enhanced workforce skills for Highlands and Islands based firms has become much clearer, thanks to the new look training and skills website LearningWorks.

The site at www.learning-works.co.uk acts as a gateway for companies across the region to seek out new skills courses and information for implementing new training strategies designed to boost profitability.

learndirect scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are working in partnership to ensure that the site provides an up to date single access point for over 3,000 training courses.



Highlands & Islands
ENTERPRISE

LEARNING *works!*

Data on the national learning opportunities database is available via the website, which means providers who register course details on the NLOD will automatically feature on LearningWorks.

Make sure you're on the register!

A new data-sharing framework, aimed at making information on learning providers and their courses more easily available, has been launched in Scotland.

The Managing Information Across Partners Initiative (MIAP) will ensure that learners, employers, funding agencies and government departments throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK will have easier access to details about providers and learning opportunities.

learndirect scotland and key partners, including the Scottish Qualifications Authority, Scottish Enterprise, Highland and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Executive, are working together to improve the quality of data about Scottish learning provision.

Learning providers in Scotland will shortly get the chance to be involved in the first step in implementing this initiative, by ensuring they are included on the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP). The UKRLP will provide a list of providers across Scotland and the UK and will be a valuable resource for all individuals and organisations with an interest in learning provision.

There is no cost to be included on the register. The UKRLP will work in tandem with learndirect scotland's national learning opportunities database (NLOD), so it will not affect the management of learning opportunities information.

Spotlight on Deaf Action

Deaf Action is an Edinburgh charity that runs British Sign Language (BSL) classes and deaf awareness courses. Administration support worker Colin MacLeod is responsible for marketing and communications, as well as setting up classes. He's also the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) coordinator for the charity.

"We run BSL courses for parents and grandparents of deaf children; people who work with the deaf or hard of hearing; people who want to become interpreters; and people who think it might be fun to learn signing. The deaf awareness courses are mostly taken by businesses and organisations who want employees to keep up to date with the Disability Awareness Act and make their services more accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. We have a real mix of clientele.

"I first heard about PROMT when I phoned learndirect scotland to update our course details. I thought it would be quicker, a real advantage, to be able to update our courses myself.

"A couple of days after I got the disk, I received information about a PROMT workshop session in Edinburgh and decided to go along. It made things really clear and I enjoyed it. We got to look at our own course information on the computers and learn how to change it without destroying everything. I was quite nervous about clicking the wrong thing and everything freezing or disappearing!

"I've updated information quite a lot since the workshop. Everyone makes mistakes, but PROMT is easy to use. And if I'm really stuck, I can call my learning information specialist for help.

"You can have a meeting at work about new class schedules on the Monday, update it that afternoon, and they will show on the website the next day – no paperwork, no meetings, no need to chase anyone up. You have total control of your updates."



Feed me, see more!

Where does your information go when you update the NLOD? You might be surprised at how far it travels! Obviously it updates the learndirect scotland websites, but it also feeds the search engines of the following organisations, among others:

- British Council (worldwide sites)
- British Council Education UK
- Connexions
- Directgov
- Education UK
- Hotcourses
- learndirect
- learndirect Advice
- Learning and Skills Web
- Learning Bank
- LearningWorks
- Worktrain

Sector Skills Councils

- Asset Skills
- Automotive Skills
- BLIS

- Construction CITB
- Creative and Cultural Skills
- e-skills UK
- People 1st
- Scenta
- SEMTA e-lip
- SEMTA Science
- Skillsfast UK
- Skillsactive
- Skillsmart Retail

BBC

- Get Writing
- Languages
- Restoration
- Return to Learning
- Skillswise

- Webwise
- Wales

Channel 4

- Big Dig
- Big Roman Dig
- Bricking it
- Comedy Circuit
- Fashion House
- Fit Farm
- Ideasfactory
- Ideasfactory Scotland
- Jamie's Kitchen
- Lost Generation (WW1)
- The Salon



Borders Construction Industry Forum

Borders Construction Industry Forum (BCIF) is a private training provider that organises training for construction companies in the Borders. Leanne Stormont has been working for the company since it started in 2003 and is an experienced PROMT user.

"BCIF's courses are aimed at the construction and building industry and we run lots of different ones. We have a big database of construction companies in the Borders and we send them packs with all our course information. If a company wants to take a course it can become a BCIF member. We offer courses either at the company's premises or ours, but more usually at a central venue.

"I first heard about PROMT through BCIF's training adviser, who was the original data contact with learndirect scotland, but the responsibility passed to me. I've been using PROMT for about a year now.

At first I felt that there was a lot of stuff you had to do, lots of little bits and pieces, but now I can whizz through it. The new versions of PROMT have made it easier, too.

learndirect scotland is obviously taking

more notice of what we need and changing the program to take account of that.

"I went to a PROMT workshop held locally. Because I'd used the tool before, I was asked to bring some of our course details along to work through and I actually got quite a lot done that day! The best thing about it was the fact that it was hands on – if you came across difficulties you could get them sorted there and then, instead of waiting and forgetting about it.

"I last updated my courses about a week and a half ago, and the learning information specialist got back to me really quickly to let me know I'd left something out. It's much better using this system than the previous paper-based one. It used to take forever, but now it's much quicker and easier because you can just cut and paste the information from your own course records."

learndirect
SCOTLAND

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