

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

the way to make a difference

additional information about the course



WHAT IS PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING?

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development course for disabled adults and parents of disabled children up to the age of 19.

When we use the term disabled, we are including people with learning difficulties, people with sensory impairments and people with physical impairments.

Partners in Policymaking is a chance to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence you need to campaign and advocate for better treatment and social justice for disabled people in our society.

WHO IS PARTNERS IN POLICY MAKING FOR?

The course is designed for parents and adults

- who think that life for disabled children and adults could be better and
- who want to improve the way things are now - but don't know where to start.

Some people on the course will already be members of groups and organisations who are working for change, while others may be new to this sort of work.

WHO IS ENTITLED TO APPLY FOR A COURSE?

People living anywhere in Scotland are entitled to apply for a place. 40 places are available.

We will be looking first and foremost for people who want to make improvements in the way services are provided for disabled people and people with learning difficulties. For this reason we will be asking you for as much information as possible - please take your time in answering all of the questions.

The answers to the questions will also help us to get a good mix of men and women from different areas of Scotland representing a wide range of experience and background.

We expect that demand for places will be high, and that some people will not be able to get on this course. However, we expect to run more courses in future years.

Please note that the course is not open to:

- either paid professional staff - unless they are applying in their capacity as a disabled person or as a parent of a disabled child, and attending in their own time.

or

- parents with sons or daughters over the age of 19 - but some of these parents may be interested in other training events SHS are hoping to run next year. If you fall into this category, please contact us if you would like us to put your name on our mailing list for such information.

The course helps participants to develop:

A strong knowledge base

Participants build up their knowledge about what is happening now in Scotland and around the world to promote the inclusion of disabled people in society

They hear from some of the best teachers, thinkers and practitioners in the field of human services from Europe, Britain and North America. They are also provided with books, articles and other materials to back up the teaching sessions.

Skills in gathering information, presenting their case and making change happen

Participants practise making presentations, producing information and getting their case across to others. They interview local managers and service providers and discuss issues with them. Between the sessions they work on local issues which concern them. Some Partners graduates go on to influence policy making at a national level, while other graduates chose to work on making small scale practical changes in their local environment.

A network of support

Many Partners graduates build up support networks on the course which they continue to use after the course. Partners graduates also make use of their international network to exchange ideas with Partners graduates in England and throughout the United States.

THE COURSE PROGRAMME

The course runs over the 8 months from October 2002 through to May 2003. We meet on a Friday and Saturday once a month. The sessions start at 11.00am on the Friday morning and end at 4.00pm on the Saturday. We work on the Friday evenings and stay in the hotel on the Friday nights. All meals are provided.

The course is as inclusive as possible. The venue is fully accessible and can cater for specialist diets. Key materials can be provided on tape, in large print, in Braille or in another language. An induction loop and a signer can be available if required.

The course covers the following subjects:

Session 1 - 4 and 5 October 2002

Understanding why things are the way they are now

During these two days we will look at the history of services for disabled people and how public and professional attitudes have caused disabled people to be segregated and excluded from society.

We will also look at the way change has happened in Scotland and in different parts of the world. Organisations of families and organisations of disabled people have played a major part in these changes and we will study the work of these groups.

Session 2 - 8 and 9 November 2002

Relating to the system and person centred planning

During these two days we will spend time mapping out how the system works in different areas and sharing some stories. We will also begin using person centred planning techniques to explore ways of planning for better support services for ourselves and our families.

Session 3 - 6 and 7 December 2002

Inclusive learning - before, during and after school

Many people who are trying to improve the place of disabled people in our society believe that we need to start by making schools inclusive. These two days will look at the issues raised by inclusive education for people of all ages

We will hear about the ways other communities and societies have made inclusive education a reality and spend time thinking about what we can do in Scotland to make our education system more inclusive.

Session 4 - 17 and 18 January 2003

Getting the right support at home, before and after leaving home

This session will concentrate on home matters - what sort of help do families need at home; how should family support and respite be organised; how do we support people with disabilities to leave the family home and live in a place of their choice with the support they need.

We will be exploring the alternatives to residential homes and group living and finding out about the growth of the community living movement. We will be gathering up to date information about new ways of supporting people within the community and how that can be financed.

Session 5 - 14 and 15 February 2003

Employment and training

Many disabled people in Scotland face a lifetime of attendance at a day centre. Others have to survive with unpaid or low paid work. During these two days we will be hearing about ways of supporting people to find work and earn a living and receive the training and support they need to do this. We will be finding out how people's benefits can be affected by earnings and about their legal rights within the workplace.

Session 6 - 14 and 15 March 2003

Rights and self advocacy

Discrimination on the grounds of disability is not a medical, social work or educational issue - it is a civil rights issue. During these two days we will be hearing from powerful self advocates about the growth of the disability movement internationally and nationally and the changes they want society to make.

We will also be spending time improving our own presentation and lobbying skills and techniques.

Session 7 - 11 and 12 April 2003

Making change happen locally

This session is about how to influence things locally in people's own community or in the way that services work. Everyone on the course will have different things they want to change.

For example, some people might be trying to make their local play group accessible or getting the local authority to support their sons or daughters to attend the local secondary school. Some people might be trying to change the way local housing departments deal with requests for tenancies from people with learning difficulties or getting the local authority to produce their publicity and information material in Braille.

We will be hearing from people who are experienced in running campaigns and learning how to work with other people to achieve positive changes.

Session 8 - 9 and 10 May 2003

Building a movement and making changes at a national level

During this last session we will be hearing about how to influence the Scottish Parliament and get policies adopted to improve things nationally now and in the future. We will be talking to politicians and civil servants involved in the Parliament and learning about the different organisations involved in lobbying and campaigning at national level.

This is also the Graduation session and we will be hearing from the new Partners graduates about what they are going to do next!

Throughout the course we will be gathering information about the latest 'enabling' technology for disabled children and adults. We will also be looking at practical skills for helping people to participate and communicate.

In between the sessions there will be a range of course work to choose from and some participants will be working on their own projects.

Participants must attend all eight sessions.

WHO'S ORGANISING THE COURSE?

The course is organised by Scottish Human Services Trust (SHS), a values led training and development organisation. All of the work we do is driven by a strong belief in social inclusion and the view that everyone is entitled to the supports they need to be part of and play a part in community.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The course is free to participants. Participants can also get help with their expenses for attending the course - for example travel costs, childcare and personal assistance. Participants are encouraged to make their own arrangements for support and we will make a contribution to the additional costs of this support. Each participant's request for support will be discussed and we aim to agree a fair arrangement with them.

WHAT IF I NEED EXTRA HELP WITH LEARNING?

Some people may need a reader or a scribe to work with them, other people may need an individual coach to go over materials with them after the session. We will agree an arrangement to suit each individual.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE COURSE?

Please contact SHS to obtain an application form for the course. If you require an application form in a particular format, or you need assistance to complete an application form, please let us know.

The closing date for application forms is Friday 30 August 2002.

HOW WILL PEOPLE BE SELECTED TO BE ON THE COURSE?

People living anywhere in Scotland are entitled to apply for a place. 40 places are available.

We will be looking first and foremost for people who want to make improvements in the way services are provided for disabled people and people with learning difficulties.

We are also trying to get a good mix of men and women from different areas of Scotland representing a wide range of experience and background.

We expect that demand for places will be high, and that some people will not be able to get on the course. However, we expect to run more courses in future years.

Please note that parents with sons or daughters over the age of 19 are not eligible for this course, but may be interested in other training events SHS are hoping to run in future years. If you fall into this category, please contact us if you would like us to put your name on our mailing list for such information.

WHEN WILL I KNOW I HAVE A PLACE?

We will be selecting participants for the course in early September 2002. We will make sure that everyone knows whether or not they have a place by no later than 13 September 2002.

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application form



The closing date for application forms is Friday 30 August 2002
All forms must be returned to
Rachel Sherratt, SHS Trust,
1a Washington Court, Washington Lane, Edinburgh, EH11 2HA
Tel 0131 538 7717 , Fax 0131 538 7719

Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Telephone (daytime) _____ (evening, if different) _____
(please include area code)

Please let us know whether you are male or female _____

Please let us know your age _____

Please describe your ethnic origin _____



1. For disabled adults only

If you are someone with a physical or sensory impairment, or learning difficulties, can you please give us some information about the way in which your impairment or learning difficulty affects your life?

2. For parents of disabled children and young people aged 19 or under only

If you are the parent or guardian of a son or daughter with a physical or sensory impairment or a learning difficulty, please answer the following questions

total number of children with disabilities in your family and their age

name _____ age _____

name _____ age _____

name _____ age _____

If there are there other children in the family, please let us know their ages

Please tell us the ways in which your child's disabilities affect your life.



ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS

3. About services

Please detail the kinds of services you or your child are currently receiving (e.g., respite care, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, care management and assessment, records of need, day services, supported employment, advocacy, etc.)

4. About the course

What interests you about the Partners in Policymaking course?

Is there anything in particular you think the Partners course will help you with?



5. About attendance on the course

We want all participants to attend all sessions. At this point in time, are you able to attend the following sessions:

session 1	4 and 5 October 2002	yes/no
session 2	8 and 9 November 2002	yes/no
session 3	6 and 7 December 2002	yes/no
session 4	17 and 18 January 2003	yes/no
session 5	14 and 15 February 2003	yes/no
session 6	14 and 15 March 2003	yes/no
session 7	11 and 12 April 2003	yes/no
session 8	9 and 10 May 2003	yes/no

6. About course work

It is hoped that participants undertake some course work between the sessions and complete a course project by May 2003. Are you willing to try to undertake this work and how much time are you willing to spend in between each session? (please note that some people will require support to complete this work - we will ask you about the support you need next)

7. About support

Many participants may need some support to attend and participate in the course. Each participant is encouraged to make their own arrangements for support but SHS will try to make as full a contribution as possible to any additional costs incurred.

We will discuss each individual's situation with them and come to some agreement with them. Payments for support will generally be issued at the end of each session. Receipts should be produced for any expenditure.

The kinds of support we think people might need include:

- personal assistance to attend and participate in the course
- assistance with using the course materials and completing the assignments
- help with childcare while you are on the course
- travel costs to attend the sessions
- aids and adaptations to assist with learning during the course, i.e. material in different formats
- special diets (please note that 50% of the food will always be vegetarian)
- a fully adapted bedroom for the overnight stay or an adjoining for a personal assistant (please note that the venue will be fully accessible, but we can not guarantee that all bedrooms will be fully accessible)



7. About support (continued)

Please detail here any special requirements you have:

If at all possible, please give a rough indication of the costs you think you might incur for each session. The venue for the course is Barony Castle, Eddleston by Peebles, Peebleshire. The venue can be reached by car or we can collect a limited number of people from Waverley Station in Edinburgh.

Estimate of travel costs (based on one session) £ _____

Estimate of childcare costs (based on one session) £ _____

Estimate of support costs (based on one session) £ _____

8. About your experience

Partners is designed for people who want to gain campaigning and advocacy skills, so direct experience of campaigning or advocacy work is not a requirement. However, if you do have some experience in trying to improve things for disabled children and adults, please give us some information about the kind of work you have been involved in. This might include:

- membership of any groups, clubs, advocacy or support organisations,
- any direct experiences you have in speaking up for people with disabilities or yourself
- any experience you have in negotiating services for either yourself or your family



9. Anything else?

Is there any other information you would like to give us in support of your application?

10. References

If there are a large number of applications, we may have to seek references to help us short list participants. If we have to do this, can you let us know who you think would be willing to provide a reference for you

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

11. Finally, for our own records

Can you please let us know how you heard about the Partners in Policy Making course? (please tick)

From SHS directly

From an other organisation (please name)

Through your child's school

Through the day centre

Through your local authority

Through a friend

Other (please specify) _____

Thank you very much for all your time and energy in completing this form
SHS. June 2002

