



*Specialists in Linking
Education & Disability*

Are We There Yet?

Improving lifelong and life wide learning journeys for disabled people

Thursday 9th June 2016

Venue: Perth College UHI, Brahan Building, Crieff Road, Perth, PH1 2NX

- 9.30 am Registration/coffee/pastries
- 10.00 am Welcome from Conference Chair, Dame Anne Begg
- 10.10 am Shirley-Anne Somerville, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education & Science
- 10.20 am Frankie McLean, Operations Manager at Deaf Action, a 4th generation BSL speaker who is heavily involved with the BSL (Scotland) Act National Advisory Group.
- Frankie will call upon his own personal and professional experiences of education for deaf children, young people and adults, and ponder whether there has been sufficient advances made over recent years -- or if deaf people are still not being given opportunities to gain the full education that others take for granted. Frankie will propose how and where things can be improved in both the short and longer terms, particularly in the face of the BSL (Scotland) Act.
- 10.40 am Questions
- 10.50 am Coffee break & networking
- 11.15 am-
12.10 pm Workshops – Session 1
- 12.10-
1.10pm Lunch (including opportunity to visit exhibition stands & networking)
- 1.15 pm Keith Smyth, Professor of Pedagogy at the University of the Highlands & Islands and an expert in online and inclusive learning and technology

How inclusive is open education?

Recent years have seen rapid developments in open education within the further and higher education sector. This has included the proliferation of large scale open online courses, the increasing availability of openly

licensed educational resources, and various national and international open education projects and initiatives. There is huge promise within the open education movement for widening access to formal and informal learning opportunities, including for learners who may have experienced disadvantage or a lack of opportunity to engage in post-secondary education. However, it is important to ask whether we are doing enough to harness open educational approaches to provide rich, engaging, and relevant educational opportunities for as broad a range of learners as possible. Through exploring current developments in the post-secondary education sector, and drawing upon grass roots examples of what is possible, Keith will take a critical and practical look at how inclusive open education is at the moment, and how inclusive it might be going forward.

1.35 pm Vonnie Sandlan, President of NUS Scotland

1.55 pm-
2.05 pm Questions for speakers

2.15 pm-
3.10 Workshops – Session 2

3.20 pm Chair closing remarks

3.30 pm Conference close



Live tweet with #leadconf16



Dame Anne Begg was a secondary school English teacher in Angus schools for 19 years and the Labour MP for Aberdeen South for 18 years until she lost her seat in May 2015. Born in 1955 she was brought up in Brechin and now lives in Aberdeen.

Dame Anne was born with the rare genetic condition, Gaucher's disease, which has meant she has permanently used a wheelchair since 1984. In 1988 she was Disabled Scot of the Year in

recognition of her community campaigning. She was awarded a DBE in the 2011 New Year's Honours List for services to equal opportunities and disabled people.

Elected in 1997, Dame Anne was the first wheelchair user to sit in the House of Commons in modern times. During her time in the Commons, she served on the Scottish Affairs Select Committee and, from 2001, the Work and Pensions committee which she chaired from 2010-15 during a time of unprecedented welfare reform. She was also the depute chair of the Speaker's Conference on Political Representation which reported in 2010. Now supposedly retired, Dame Anne is finding lots to fill her time such as being appointed as a Council member of the SSSC, becoming Patron to a number of charities

and fulfilling regular speaking requests to reflect on her time in Parliament. She recently appeared on stage in the National Theatre of Scotland's production of Granite.



Currently Operations Manager at Deaf Action, **Frankie McLean** was born as a fourth generation Deaf child into a proud Scottish, Deaf family having British Sign Language as its first language. Frankie holds a BSc (Hons) in Immunology & Pharmacology, a BA (Hons) in Social Work, and a Graduate Certificate in Practice Learning. Having extensive personal and first-hand experience of the challenges that Deaf people face every day, this translates into a passion that all Deaf people should be full citizens in society and valued as contributors and achievers. Working in the field of deafness for well over a decade as an active practitioner and manager, Frankie has engaged in a wide range of work across specialities

encompassing research, education, project management, strategic planning and overseas work.



Keith Smyth is Professor of Pedagogy at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), where he leads the Learning and Teaching Academy and works across the UHI partnership on strategic learning and teaching developments, funded projects, and supporting staff to engage in educational research. Keith has a particular interest in technology-enhanced learning, and in a previous role led a professionally accredited and award-winning MSc Blended and Online Education for teachers and educators. Keith has been involved in a range of projects and initiatives focused on harnessing technology to support inclusive educational practices, co-creative pedagogies and curriculum models, and open educational practice. Keith has undertaken funded projects in these areas for organisations that include the Higher Education Academy, Jisc, and NHS, and has been involved in a

number of third sector education projects and organisations.