



## **Working in Health Access Network (Tayside)**

### **Annual Report 2006/07**

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Gordon Black, June 2007

## 1. Introduction

The Working in Health Access Network (WHAN) is a national collaboration of 27 Scottish Further and Higher Education institutions, the four Regional Wider Access Forums, the local authorities in Scotland, the NHS and Careers Scotland. Further details can be found at [www.whan.org](http://www.whan.org). The WHAN (Tayside) website is [www.whantayside.com](http://www.whantayside.com). There are five local WHAN networks, based around the five medical schools in Scotland.

## 2. Aims of the project

The stated aim of the WHAN project as per the WHAN website is

*'to raise awareness of courses of study and careers in the healthcare professions'.*

The activities of WHAN (Tayside) in 2006/07 were aimed primarily at school pupils.

## 3 WHAN (Tayside) partners

The partners in the WHAN (Tayside) network are

Universities	University of Abertay Dundee University of Dundee
FE Colleges	Angus College Dundee College
Schools	Angus Arbroath Academy Arbroath High School Brechin High School Forfar Academy
	Dundee Baldrigon Academy Braeview Academy Lawside Academy Menzieshill High School St John's High School
	Perth & Kinross Blairgowrie High School Perth Grammar School St Columba's High School
Careers Scotland	
Fife and Tayside Wider Access Forum	
NHS (Tayside)	
Scottish Funding Council	

## **4. Structure of activities in 2006/07**

Schools involved in the project (as in Section 3) have been nominated by the LEAs as being below the national average for progression to Higher and Further education. Underlying our activities in schools is the knowledge that at various points through the school years, pupils have to make choices as to which subjects they wish to study. These choices of course should, if possible, relate to the possible future careers and jobs to which the pupils will aim. Some, indeed many, of the pupils will not have given much thought to future careers and it is hoped that by early intervention, interest in a career in 'health' may be encouraged.

In general terms we have created a flow of activities depending on the stage the pupils are at. At the end of S2, pupils will have decided which subjects they wish to take to standard grade and further. Given that most careers and jobs in 'health' do require some level of science-based knowledge, in S1 and S2 we aim to raise interest in studying science subjects, by employing hands-on activities in a general 'fun' way. This should show that studying science subjects can be fun as well as being interesting and useful later.

For pupils in S3, we aim to demonstrate careers in action. To do this we set up events where health professionals show what they do and speak about their careers, the academic requirements (if any), conditions of work, salaries etc. A wide range of careers is presented to the pupils, in medicine, dentistry, nursing and the AHP occupations.

Senior pupils (S4 – S6) should now be more focussed on careers and at this stage we can present more relevant events, specifically aimed at certain sections of pupils, e.g. how to apply to medical school, information about specific careers.

## **5. Activities in schools**

### **5.1 SCIFUN activities**

SCIFUN of Edinburgh University were contracted to provide hands-on science workshops to S2 pupils. Each workshop included a short careers presentation demonstrating how useful science can be. Ten of the twelve Tayside WHAN schools took up this opportunity and approximately 2000 pupils participated. In addition, Arbroath Academy offered an evening session with SCIFUN, for Primary 7 pupils of their feeder primaries. Dr Bill Morrison, Consultant at A & E Department, Ninewells gave an interesting presentation on his work as part of the evening. The event was extremely well attended with approximately 70 people attending.

The SCIFUN workshops were well received by schools, teachers and pupils. The workshops took place in February and March and in future we would prefer that all workshops were scheduled before end of February when S2 pupils make their subject choice for standard grades.

## **5.2 Introductory Workshops in schools**

These workshops are designed to introduce S3 pupils to life as a student plus begin to make them aware of the huge range of careers within the health sector. The workshops are delivered by current students from a variety of health disciplines and act as a precursor to the Discovering Health Careers mornings which take place in May. Three schools invited WHAN to deliver workshops and it is hoped that more will participate next year.

## **5.3 Medicine information session**

This information session was held on 24 January 2007 at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School and it was designed to provide senior pupils information about how to apply to University and what the medical school looks for in an application. It was attended by 45 senior pupils from eight of the WHAN (Tayside) schools. Two current medical students spoke about studying in the Medical School and the Convener of the Medical Admissions Committee gave a presentation about what the selectors look for in an application. This was recorded and is available on DVD (see section 6.2 below).

## **5.4 Discovering Careers in Health**

This was a major information event when over 300 S3 pupils from 11 of the 12 WHAN (Tayside) schools attended over three days in May. The purpose of the events was to raise awareness of the wide variety of careers and opportunities within the 'health' sector. Representatives from a number of disciplines within health attended. These include Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Medical Physics, Biomechanics, Nursing and Midwifery, Food & Nutrition, Sport & Exercise and Accident & Emergency. A physiotherapist from Dundee United FC also attended, with two injured players, to show the type of work undertaken in the recovery process. Medical students arranged hands-on activities showing a number of procedures, i.e. CPR, Bandaging and an auscultation station.

## **6. Resources available**

### **6.1 WHAN (Tayside) website ([www.whantayside.com](http://www.whantayside.com))**

This has been developed to provide information about what the WHAN project aims to achieve and how we hope to accomplish these aims. It provides details of forthcoming events and how to book a place. Photographs taken from recent WHAN events are also displayed to give a flavour of what happens.

### **6.2 Medicine information DVD**

This is the presentation given by Dr. Jon Dowell, convener of the Medical Admissions Committee on January 24, 2007 at Ninewells Hospital. It deals with applying to the Medical School, academic and non-academic requirements and the interview process. It is primarily aimed at pupils in

senior pupils who are seriously interested in applying to study medicine. It is also available via the WHAN website ([www.whantayside.com](http://www.whantayside.com)).

### **6.3 Virtual NHS**

Available within the WHAN (Tayside) website ([www.whantayside.com](http://www.whantayside.com)), this is an interactive visit to a hospital, starting at the reception in Accident & Emergency. Visitors to the website can move around various departments within the 'hospital'.

## **7. Future activities**

Appendix 1 shows the proposed timetable of events for 2007/08. This has been created in response to requests and comments from teachers and pupils and it is intended to fit into the normal activities of schools.

Given that pupils will be moving up in school, a new group of S2s will now be available. Therefore the science hands-on activities for S2 pupils will be repeated before they have to make their standard grade choices.

At the invitation of schools, introductory workshops will also be repeated with the help of current students. Again these will be held at times to suit each individual school.

Organised events are popular with schools and pupils so more are planned for 2007/08. These include events regarding 'Mental Health and Wellbeing', 'Healthy Living', both in September at the University of Abertay, Dundee and a 'Dental Careers' event in December. There is also an entry level 'Careers in Health' event at Angus College in September, aimed not only at senior pupils, but also at adult returners and those not in education, employment or education (the NEET group). We will repeat the 'Discovering Careers in Health' events for S3 at Ninewells Hospital in May. Schools and pupils will be able to request workshops and information sessions on particular subjects and we will aim to provide information from relevant health professionals.

We are actively collaborating with the School of Medicine, University of Dundee, in the development of a four-week Student Selected Component. This would involve medical students in year 3 going into selected 'WHAN' schools, to supplement the teaching of Biology in the first instance. It is hoped that this pilot project will become a regular 'Component' in all our WHAN schools.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

There are a number of people to thank for their help in this first year of the WHAN project.

Without the help and support of guidance staff in our nominated schools, our work in the WHAN project could not have taken place. We have received unflinching help from our schools, often in difficult circumstances.

Our thanks also must go to the many 'healthcare' personnel and students who voluntarily gave up so much of their time to help with and take part in the events described above. Without their help and enthusiasm the events could not have taken place.

Lastly we must thank the medical students who so willingly helped at the 'Careers in Health' events and the medicine Information event. Evaluation of the completed questionnaires after these events showed that the school pupils valued the contact with current students very highly indeed.

## **9. WHAN (Tayside) Personnel**

The WHAN Network Liaison Officers are Gordon Black and Fiona Dear. Their contacts details are

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## Working in Health Access Network

## Proposed timetable of events in 2007/08

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
August - May	Introductory Workshops to Careers In Health	Schools	Single period introductions to the range of health careers for S3 pupils, delivered by current students in 'health' subjects.
August - May September 11 (9.45 – 12.45)	Career Workshops Discovering Careers in Mental Health and Wellbeing	Various locations Abertay University	Focussed careers information to S4 pupils, with health professionals Discover the wide range of careers and opportunities available in this important health sector. Pupils in S4 – S6 are welcome to attend.
September 18 (9.45 – 12.45)	Discovering Careers in Health (entry level)	Angus College	This event is open to school pupils (S3/S4), recent school leavers and adults with few qualifications who would like to find out more about the opportunities available.
September 19 (13.00 – 15.30)	Discovering Careers in Health Living	Abertay University	Discover the wide range of careers and opportunities available in this sector. This event is aimed at S4/S6 and will include hands-on activities and workshops.
December 17 (9.45 – 12.45)	Discovering Dental Careers	Dundee Dental Education Centre	Find out about careers as part of the Dental team. These include dental nurse, dental hygienist/therapist, dental technician and dentist.
January	Student Selected Component	Three schools	Pilot project, with School of Medicine, University of Dundee
January - February	Science hands-on visits	Various schools	Hands on science-based workshop and activities for S2 pupils.
January 23 (13.00 – 15.30)	Medicine Information event	Ninewells Hospital	Pupils in S3 – S5 will be able to find out about studying medicine at the University of Dundee, how to apply and the academic requirements. Current medical students will assist in hands-on activities.
May 13-15 (9.45 – 12.45)	Discovering Careers in Health	Ninewells Hospital	Come to Ninewells Hospital and Medical School to meet workers in health professions and current students to find out about the variety of careers and opportunities available in the health sector. Learn about careers in Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Sport and Health, Podiatry and many more.

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29 June 2007