



Social Services
KNOWLEDGE SCOTLAND

Social Services Knowledge Scotland *Unlocking knowledge for practice*

Social Services Knowledge Scotland (SSKS) is a new web-based service for practicing social services staff and their managers to help unlock knowledge for practice.

You can use SSKS to access information and learning resources, social networking tools that help communities share resources and dialogue, and a range of tools and guidance to help develop skills so you can find the information you need when you need it. SSKS will take you to quality information by allowing you to search the services of all the key social services knowledge providers.

Many of the resources in SSKS are freely available without a password. To access the wide range of subscription journals, you will need to register for an Athens password at www.ssk.org.uk.



Through SSKS you can...

- Search for journal articles and e-books
- Browse the topic areas
- Find information for users and carers
- Explore the quick links to useful web resources
- Keep up to date with recent news from key organisations and websites
- Find details of information and learning services



Everything in one place

SSKS gives you a single point of access to quality sources of information:

- The Learning Exchange
- Social Care Online
- reSearchWeb
- Applied Social Services Index & Abstracts (ASSIA)
- Social Work Abstracts
- Social Policy & Practice—which includes ChildData and PLANEX
- Ageline
- Intute Social Welfare Subject Gateway
- Campbell Collaboration—which contains systematic reviews of evidence for social work practice
- Scottish and UK government policy documents
- NHS Scotland e-Library full text electronic journals, e-books and evaluated health and social care websites
- Contact details for local authority, voluntary sector and NHS organisations to support users and carers

Share what you know

While published information and evidence to support practice is important so is professional knowledge and experience. SSKS provides tools to support the sharing of this professional knowledge between colleagues. My Community Space (accessible from the SSKS homepage) provides a space where you can access and organize resources that interest you and find people with similar interests. SSKS lets you tag resources you find with your own keywords so you can easily find them again. You can also download the tagging tool so you can tag resources you find on the Internet and add these to your personal space on SSKS. My Community Space lets you see the favourite resources other colleagues have tagged and clicking on these tags will take you directly to the resources. You can also use the Shared Space tool that provides virtual workspaces where communities can share local resources, experience and hold discussions

Find what you're looking for

Good decisions depend on good information. Rapid developments in IT, together with the information-explosion of the Internet, will give you access to huge amounts of information. But, getting the right information at the right time can be difficult. How can you find that good information? Information literacy describes a set of skills that help you recognise your information need and how to find, retrieve, assess, manage and apply information. The Information literacy link on the SSKS homepage provides access to guidance, tools and resources within the Information Literacy Portal, to help staff in developing the skills and confidence to share and apply knowledge in everyday practice.

For further information visit SSKS at www.ssk.org.uk