

Inform

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Shaping and Leading Disability Equality in Scotland

SDEF Voice 12

Dear Member

Welcome to the April edition of SDEF Voice.

This month we are sharing with you the latest consultation responses undertaken with SDEF members, as well as some other news we think you will find of interest.

If you have a story or news item you would like to share with members, then please get in touch with us by email at morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk or call 01259 272063.



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'Shocking' findings from SDEF



Many thanks for our member's responses to this consultation, which shows that, Scottish schools and local authorities are failing to meet their legal duty to plan for disabled children's needs. [Go to our website to read more](#)



Carer's Legislation Consultation on Proposals



This consultation covers carers' assessments, the provision of advice, information and direct support to carers, and how carers' changing needs should be met.

SDEF, alongside the other Disabled Persons Organisations, welcomes and supports legislation for carers.

Changes in legislation affecting carers inevitably impact on disabled people and other service users who are 'cared for'. They cannot, therefore, be made in isolation; they must be co-produced with disabled people and other service users.

We ask that terminology is aligned with the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 and that the pejorative term 'cared for person' is replaced by 'supported person'.

[Download the full response from our website](#)

Self-Directed Support Act now in effect



Disabled people and their organisations call on councils to 'work with us'. From 1 April 2014 every local authority in Scotland will have a legal responsibility to offer 'self-directed support' (SDS). [Go to our website to read more](#)

Extending Rights to Children

This consultation looks at two separate issues:

- giving children with additional support needs, and who have the ability to do so, the right to challenge decisions about education themselves, rather than through their parents
- changes to the process for complaining about schooling



SDEF does not think the limitations of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's powers were clearly enough stated in this consultation. As the Ombudsman's Information Leaflet 1 explains, they can 'check a decision is properly made, but [they] cannot change or overturn it.'

We believe that, as a result, respondents to question five may well have answered 'yes' when they would not otherwise have done so, had they known the limits of the Ombudsman's powers.

[Download the full response from our website](#)

SAIF is looking for forum members



SCOTTISH ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION FORUM

[The Scottish Accessible Information Forum](#) (SAIF) raises understanding of the importance of accessible information.

SAIF is seeking new people to join its advisory forum.

For further information and an application pack please contact Mairi Whannel on 0141 559 5021 or email saifscotland@scvo.org.uk

Mental Health (Scotland) Bill



This Bill aims to improve the operation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. This Act covers when you can be taken into hospital or given treatment against your will, what your rights are and the safeguards to make sure these rights are protected.

SDEF recognises the technical nature of some of the changes proposed in this consultation. We believe, however, that the overall number of responses will be limited by the consultation document's complicated drafting, the lack of an easy-read version and the failure to explain, or provide a glossary, for terms such as Mental Health Officer and Compulsory Treatment Order.

[Download our full response from our website](#)

Current Consultations

Below is the current consultation we would like to invite you to comment on:

- [Consultation on the Assisted Suicide \(Scotland\) Bill](#) Closing date Sunday 27 April 2014



There are many ways in which you can have your say:

- Email us with your comments
- Complete the questionnaire in the link above
- Call us
- Send a video blog

Graduate Internship Scheme

The Equality Internship Programme is seeking applications from third sector employers to create internship opportunities for graduates (HND or above) with a disability or long-term health condition.

[To find out more about the programme go to Making Access Work 4 You website](#)

Benefits of SDEF Membership

As a member of SDEF you have access to:

- Quarterly issues of our newsletter [Open Door](#)
- Monthly email newsletter updates from SDEF Voice
- Opportunity to have your say with the latest Scottish Government Consultations, about issues affecting you
- Latest news and events

We would like to hear from you and what you would like from your FREE membership with SDEF. Drop [Morven Brooks](#) an email today with your suggestions and comments and we will work hard in improving our membership service.



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