

Inform

# Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Shaping and Leading Disability Equality in Scotland

## SDEF Voice 13

Dear Member

Welcome to the June edition of SDEF Voice.

This month we are sharing with you the latest projects we are working on, as well as some other news we think you will find of interest.

Alternative formats of this email newsletter can now be downloaded from our website, [click here to view](#).

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](mailto:morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk) or call 01259 272063.



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## Have Your Say on Disability - National Survey



We would like to know what you think about what has changed for you as a disabled person and what needs to change to make life better.

By completing a short national survey, you add your voice to help shape the future of a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.

Visit the website below to make your voice heard!

[www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk](http://www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk)

Please also help us share this national survey to your own members. We have developed a range of resources to help you do this, [please go to our website for further information](#).

## Welcome to our new Disability Access Officer



We would like to say a huge welcome to Robert Ferguson, our new Disability Access Officer. Robert has worked as an Access Officer within Local Government for almost 10 years, and has seen a great deal of change for the better within that time, although there is still a great deal more work to be done.

Robert's role with SDEF is to work with Access Panels and the whole of the SDEF team to support panels to enact that change, and to develop the strengths and standards that will deliver those changes.

I'm sure you will all make Robert feel very welcome.

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## Access Panel Training Programme 2014-15

The first phase of the training programme is now complete and was a huge success. A total of 30 Panels (60 members) attended the training and have told us it was extremely helpful and informative. Feedback also tells us the members found the training relaxed and friendly, which is great to hear!



Members said they valued the training, they learned a lot and appreciated the opportunity to network. They really enjoyed the opportunity to build relationships, share ideas and seek support on finding solutions for some of their local issues.

SDEF would like to thank those who participated – you were fabulous trainees!

### So what next?

SDEF is preparing a summary report which will tell us what people have learned in more detail. We will add this to the website soon. We will also add a link to Flickr, where you can view some photo's taken at the events.

Phase 2 starts in July! We are really excited about Phase 2 and looking forward to meeting the delegates again. In Phase 2 we will concentrate on the areas where members have told us they need more support and expand on the subjects talked about in Phase 1.

[Follow this link for more information on the training programme](#) (please note the locations and venues will be amended slightly to better meet the needs of the individuals attending).



## Consultation Response - Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill



The Scottish  
Parliament

Thank you to members and Access Panels for responding to the latest consultation 'Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill'.

The general points highlighted from our response paper are:

- SDEF, alongside the majority of its members, agree with the general principal to make the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill legally allowable.
- The majority of members who responded feel that those with physical disabilities, where quality of life is affected, should also be included in the Bill.
- In principle, the police should have a clearly defined role, however should not be directly involved with the procedure.

Our easy read response can now be downloaded from our website, [click here to view](#).





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## National Access Survey Team

SDEF are working with Panel members to develop a National Access Survey Team (NAST).



The members will provide a 'core team' of suitably qualified and skilled auditors to enable us to explore business opportunities and provide guidance and assistance to other Panel members, supporting the sustainability of Access Panels and their membership.

The team is making good progress and are looking forward to learning more from each other. The team are developing an 'Access Toolkit', which will provide templates and guidance to help and assist those who provide Access Audits. The toolkit will form part of the Inclusive Design Website currently being designed by SDEF, which will promote good practice – more detail on this coming soon!

## Access Panel Conferences Stirling and Aviemore

I hope those of you who attended our Stirling and Aviemore Access Panel Conferences, we hope you enjoyed your day and took something useful away with you.

Presentations from the conferences can be downloaded from our website, and are also available in alternative formats upon request. [Click here to download.](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you at next year's Access Panel Conference, if not before!

## Current Consultations

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

- [Interim Equality Impact Assessment Consultation](#) Closing date Sunday 1 June 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 - Tel: 01259 272063
- Send a video blog

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## Transport Project



SDEF are developing a Top Tips leaflet for transport providers in Scotland. This leaflet hopes to raise the awareness of the issues and barriers faced by disabled people using transport system, and encourage all transport providers to provide disability awareness training to all staff. This leaflet will be sent to all Access Panels soon

for their comments.

## Welcome to our Intern Support and Development Officer



We would like to say a huge welcome on board to Adam Nosal, our Intern Support and Development Officer.

Adam is working with SDEF until the end of June. He is supporting and developing the Disability Graduate Internship Programme. Read below more about the

programme, and of course if you would like to find out how you can get involved, please contact Adam Tel: 01259 272064 or email

[adam.nosal@sdef.org.uk](mailto:adam.nosal@sdef.org.uk)

Adam has recorded a video update on the progress of his work, [watch the video here](#). A transcript of the video can be downloaded from our website.

## Disability Graduate Internship Scheme

**Making Access Work 4 You**  
Disability Graduate Internship Programme

Do you need help with a project?

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.



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

## Employment Project



SDEF are working with partners across the Third, Public and Private Sectors in the Borders area to develop a collection of case studies that will inform employers and employees of the issues and barriers, positive solutions and recommendations for employers and disabled people on employment. This work will link to Making Access Work 4 You, which will provide further support and guidance. SDEF are grateful to all participating in this project for their time and contribution.

Follow this link for more information:

[www.makingaccesswork4you.org.uk](http://www.makingaccesswork4you.org.uk)

## 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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