

Inform

# Scottish Disability Equality Forum

## Leading Disability Equality in Scotland

April 2015

### SDEF Voice 22

We are delighted to bring you our latest email newsletter packed with updates from SDEF.

We have been very busy in the last couple of months, and I'm sure many of you have met our team on their travels all over Scotland. Please read on and find out more about the events we have been working on in partnership with Transport Scotland and Police Scotland.

The SDEF team would like to say a huge thank you to all our members through a very busy and exciting period. Your energy and involvement with us has been fantastic.

Best Wishes

SDEF Team!



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## Transport Accessibility Events and Summit

The Transport Accessibility Summit, hosted by Transport Scotland was recently held in Edinburgh (24 March 2015). The aim of the summit was to bring together interested parties, including local and central government, to discuss a range of key issues raised by disabled people themselves.

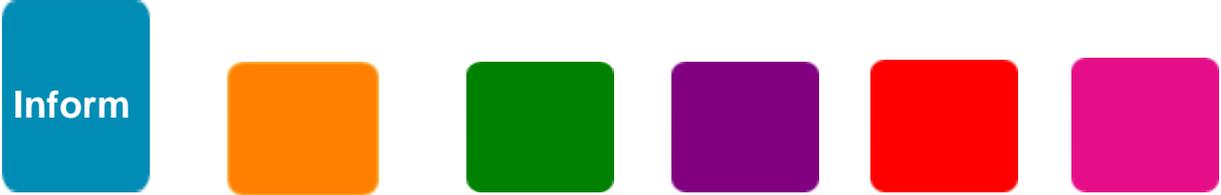
It also enabled transport operators across different modes to hear the personal stories behind the issues and to share best practice.

In the lead up to the summit Transport Scotland, SDEF and other stakeholders, held a series of meetings which raised almost 50 issues for discussion including:

- making journeys to and from stations much better, this includes train stations, bus stations and ferry terminals;
- providing accessible toilet facilities like changing places toilets near transport hubs;
- challenging hate crime on public transport and make sure disabled people know about any breakdowns or changes to travel.
- offering other accessible transport or help to finish the journey;
- talking to disabled people about how to change attitudes of staff.

You can still have your say by completing the Transport Accessibility Survey. This is available from SDEF and can be downloaded from <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/transport-accessibility-survey>

A report of the summit and a plan of action will be produced later this year and will be taken forward in partnership with disabled people and transport providers.



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## Get Involved!

If you are interested in joining your local Access Panel, we can put you in touch with them.

Why not check out the new Access Panel Network website, where you can find out what an Access Panel does and where your nearest panel is. <http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/>

## Clampdown on drivers who misuse Blue Badge scheme

The Scottish Government is bringing in new legislation on 30th March to protect Blue Badge users across Scotland.

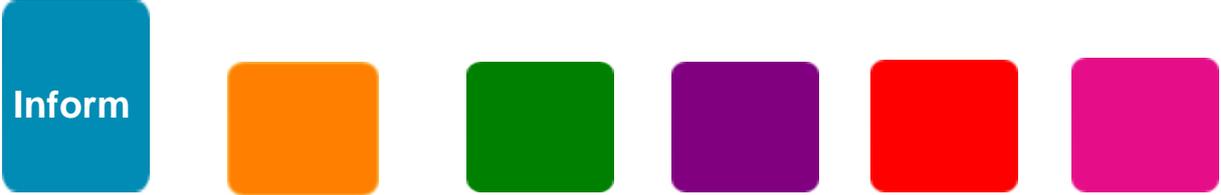
Blue Badge parking spaces and the Blue Badge scheme provide an essential service for disabled people allowing access to parking bays which are normally closer to work, shops and other community services. This parking access often makes the difference as to whether people with mobility problems live their lives as fully as they can.

Parking in a designated disabled space illegally, even for a few minutes, has a significant knock-on effect for the legitimate Blue Badge holders who are unable to find a suitable parking space.

Normal everyday tasks such as going to the shops, attending a doctor's appointment or even going to work, things that most of us take for granted can become impossible due to lack of access.

The new legislation in the Disabled Persons' Parking Badges (Scotland) Act 2014 will allow local authorities the power to cancel badges which have been reported lost or stolen and confiscate badges that are being misused.





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Granting extra powers for local authorities to tackle Blue Badge misuse and confiscate badges that are not valid or are being used illegally by a third party for their own benefit will allow disabled badge holders access to services in the community and help them lead independent lives.

For more information on Blue Badges and the rules and regulations around their use, please visit [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

## Update Disability Information Scotland

### Give your feedback

If you have contacted Update Disability Information Scotland for information or advice, please tell them what you think by completing this [short survey](#).

The aim of Update Disability Information Scotland is to provide **reliable, accurate and accessible disability related information** throughout Scotland. **Your feedback** will tell them whether they have succeeded in achieving this goal and **will help to develop and improve their services**.

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/HDL9JXW?c=6a91d2fb65](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HDL9JXW?c=6a91d2fb65)

## Contact Police Scotland - Your Say, Your Way

SDEF have recently been working in Partnership with Police Scotland, holding events across Scotland. The aim of these events was to work with communities to ensure that everyone in Scotland has fair and equal access to contact Police Scotland through their Service Centres.

We would like to thank everyone who supported and attended the events. Each event was very well attended and participated.

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We are currently evaluating the events with Police Scotland and this will be shared soon. An accessibility survey will also be distributed, so watch this space for further information.

### **Benefits for SDEF Members**

We are working hard to improve the membership you receive from SDEF. As a result we have secured benefits just for SDEF Members:

- 5% Discount on product sales from Albion Mobility  
[www.albionmobility.co.uk](http://www.albionmobility.co.uk)
- 10% Discount on printing from CGL Printers  
<http://www.cg-ltd.co.uk/>

As a member you also receive:

- Quarterly Magazine 'Open Door'
- Monthly e-bulletin 'SDEF Voice'
- Opportunity to have your voice heard with policy consultations
- Invitation to member events

Watch this space for future benefits to come in 2015...

### **Your Membership Matters**

Below is a reminder of what we offer our members.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more.





## **Support and Signposting**

We answer many member enquiries and signpost them to the appropriate organisation, individual or information source.

## **Networking Opportunities**

We make introductions to key decision makers and contacts and make sure members have frequent opportunities to meet and network with relevant audiences. We help members make the right connections.

## **Your views, experiences and expertise**

All our policy is formulated directly from our member's views, experiences and expertise. We believe that our members are the experts.

We respond to all relevant Scottish Government, parliamentary, think tank and other consultations.

We regularly ask our members for their views on many diverse policy issues – which then directly feeds in to our policy work and government consultation responses.

## **Annual AGM**

Our Annual AGM is an opportunity for members to participate in the governance and representation of SDEF. Members will be offered the opportunity to attend members meetings, and where eligible, vote in elections and to stand as candidates themselves. Support will be offered to members to enable them to fulfill their democratic responsibilities. Currently only Full and Associate members have voting rights. An AGM will cover:



- A report to members on the activities of SDEF over the past year
- Provide an opportunity to discuss issues arising from the report
- Endorsement of the annual report and accounts
- Reporting to members the results of the election of the board
- The appointment of the auditors for the following year
- Approval of the previous year's minutes of the AGM
- Suggested areas of SDEF work from members

We also use the AGM as an opportunity to inform members about the work that SDEF is doing from key staff members.

### Information Leaflets

We provide information leaflets on the projects we are working on. You will receive a copy of our leaflets in your Members Welcome Pack. If you require any additional copies, please call the office to request this or alternatively they can be downloaded from our website. See <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-resource-centre/information-leaflets>

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