

Inform

# Scottish Disability Equality Forum

## Leading Disability Equality in Scotland

February 2016

### SDEF Voice 29

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, Scottish Disability Equality Forum members e-newsletter.

We are delighted to update you on the latest consultation responses we have submitted. Without our members we would not be able to respond on the behalf of disabled people and clearly put across what is important to you.

We are currently working away on our next member's magazine 'Open Door'. If you have an interesting article or news to share, please contact Morven, she will be more than happy to chat to you.

We are holding our next Roadshow event in Dumfries on 9 March 2016. Don't worry if you don't live in this area, further events will be planned across Scotland this year, so watch this space. Our events provide you with the opportunity to meet staff from SDEF and to make sure your voice is heard.

Don't forget to share this newsletter with friends, family and colleagues.

Best Wishes  
SDEF Team!

Psssst! This newsletter is available in alternative formats from <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-newsletter/sdef-voice>



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## Best of 2015

We thought it would be great to share with you the best highlights of SDEF's work from 2015. Without our members and Access Panel support we would not have achieved this, so a very big thank you to you all.

1. **One Member, One Vote:** 100% of members can now vote at our AGMs
2. **Consultation responses:**
  - The Scottish Government's Draft Delivery Plan
  - Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Scottish Local Government's Delivery Plan 2015-2018
  - Proposed Abolition of Social Care Charges (Scotland) Bill
  - Personal Independence Payment: aids and appliances
  - Footway Parking and Double Parking (Scotland) Bill
  - Equality Act 2010 and Disability  
The Future Delivery of Social Security in Scotland
  - General Practice Telephone Numbers Consultation Response
  - Accessible Transport Strategy and Action Plan for Scotland 2015-2020
3. **Launch of the Access Panel Network website -**  
<http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/>
4. **Disability Roadshow Events** held through Scotland:
  - 9 July 2015, Renfrewshire
  - 15 September 2015, Dundee
  - 14 October 2015, Orkney
  - 11 November 2015, Edinburgh
5. **Open Door magazine** published:
  - Issue 43 Winter 2015
  - Issue 42 Summer 2015

## Partnership working with Police Scotland - Your Say, Your Way event:

- 19 February 2015, Aberdeen
- 20 February 2015, Inverness
- 24 February 2015, Glasgow
- 25 February 2015, Fife
- 2 March 2015, Edinburgh
- 10 March 2015, Borders

## 6. Partnership working with Transport Scotland events:

- 5 February 2015, Edinburgh
- 12 February 2015, Glasgow
- 17 February 2015, Aberdeen
- 26 February 2015, Inverness
- 27 February 2015, Falkirk
- 3 March 2015, Borders

## Disability Roadshow

We held our latest roadshow event in Stirling on 27 January 2016. At this event we discussed the following consultations:

- Proposed Abolition of Social Care Charges (Scotland) Bill - <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/consultation-responses/385-proposed-abolition-of-social-care-charges-scotland-bill>
- Personal Independence Payment: aids and appliances - <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/consultation-responses/384-personal-independence-payment-aids-and-appliances>

From the discussions and wider membership feedback, we submitted a response to both consultations. You can download the responses from our website by clicking on the links above, or alternatively please contact us and we can send you a hard copy.

We have the following event coming up: **Dumfries:** 9 March 2016, 1pm - 3pm, North West Resource Centre

You can book online by clicking on this link <http://tinyurl.com/heb2xer> or contact our office on T: 01259 272064

## Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) Membership Recruitment

SAIF members are volunteers who bring an understanding of and expertise in providing accessible information through their personal and/or professional experience. SAIF are currently recruiting new people to the forum.

This is a voluntary/unpaid position. Members can be based anywhere in Scotland - Travel expenses are reimbursed for forum meetings in Glasgow/Edinburgh or other approved SAIF business.

The role of the forum members is to:

- Represent the views, experiences and information needs of people in Scotland who find it difficult to access information
- Provide guidance and support towards the completion of the SAIF development plan
- Exchange information, ideas and good practice in relation to accessible information
- Attend meetings on a regular basis and contribute to discussions and decision making
- Take part in SAIF activities and development work, such as attending conferences and similar events as a representative of SAIF

The closing date for applications is **Monday the 15th February 2016**.

Interviews will take place on Thursday the 3rd March.

For further information and an application pack, please contact Mairi Whannel on 0141 559 5021 or email [saifscotland@scvo.org.uk](mailto:saifscotland@scvo.org.uk)

## Disabled Access Day 12 March 2016

**Disabled Access Day** is about encouraging disabled people to visit somewhere they've never visited before, whether that's a cinema, coffee shop, museum or somewhere else.

### What can you do in the run up to Disabled Access Day 2016?

There are lots of things that you can do to help spread the word and make Disabled Access Day 2016 even bigger and better! Here are just a few suggestions:

- Spread the word. Tell your friends if they don't already know about Disabled Access Day – ask them to tell as many of their friends as they can, too.
- You can also talk about Disabled Access Day on social media; the hashtag is **#AccessDay**. Retweet and share posts about Disabled Access Day or, even better, make your own!
- If you have your own blog or write for one, you could write a post about Disabled Access Day. Even better, if you took part in January, share your experiences so people know how much fun they can have!
- Alternatively, you could write an article for your local paper about why Disabled Access Day is important to you and what events are taking place in your area.
- Speak to venues in your area and encourage them to get involved - whether that be coffee shop / tourist attraction / cinema or anywhere else you can think of!
- Organise local events to get as many people involved as possible. This could be as simple as providing tea and coffee in a local hall or you could organise a trip to a local attraction that has good disabled access.

You can find out what events are happening near you by going to Disabled Access Day website - <http://www.disabledaccessday.com/what-s-on/>

## Consultation Responses

Thank you to members who have taken the time to submit their comments to recent consultations. Your comments strengthen the voice of disabled people in Scotland.

We have now uploaded our recent consultation responses to our website, you can download by clicking on the links below:

- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Delivery Plan 2015 - 2018 <http://tinyurl.com/zodgx4a>
- The Scottish Government's Draft Delivery Plan <http://tinyurl.com/hjllvkk>
- Proposed Abolition of Social Care Charges (Scotland) Bill <http://tinyurl.com/jnyg4bb>
- Personal Independence Payment: aids and appliances <http://tinyurl.com/z2b4fw3>

## Policy Consultations

Our members are the voice of SDEF.

We would appreciate your views and comments on the consultations below:

- Market review of British Sign Language and communications provision for people who are deaf or have hearing loss - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8ZGPPYR>
- Health Facilities Scotland - <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/358-health-facilities-scotland-consultation>

- Scottish Ambulance Service - <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/337-scottish-ambulance-service>

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

- E: [morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk](mailto:morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk)
- T: 01259 272063
- **Post to:** Office 1/7, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa FK10 3LP
- Complete the questionnaire in the links above
- If you require a paper copy, please request this and we can send a copy to you.

## **Do you want to improve access in your community Volunteer with your local Access Panel today!**

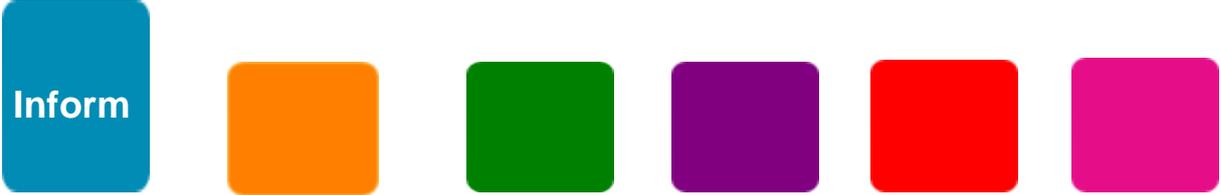
Access Panels are groups of volunteers who work together to improve physical access and wider social inclusion in their local communities. Panels are made up of disabled people, those affected by disability as well as non disabled people. You can contribute to the great work already being done to make changes to how we all access buildings and services where you live.

To find out more you can search for your nearest Access Panel by going to the Access Panel Network Scotland website - <http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/directory-panels/> or contact Scottish Disability Equality Forum T: 01259 272064 or E: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk)

## **Inclusive Communication Hub - What do you think?**

The Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) and the Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF) have formed a Steering Group to develop an Inclusive Communication Hub for Scotland.

The Inclusive Communication Hub will be the first of its' kind for Scotland. To find out more about the purpose of the Hub go to our Inclusive Communication Hub page



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<http://www.saifscotland.org.uk/inclusive-communication-hub/#sthash.SLdl3mED.8udPP5Jt.dpbs>

The Consortium has produced a survey to find out your views on the Hub. The survey is available here -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9KRGN5>

Please take 15 minutes to answer our questions.

If you would like to find out more about the Inclusive Communication Hub, please contact Morven Brooks T: 01259 272064

E: [morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk](mailto:morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk)

## 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

## 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.

T: 01259 272064 E: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk) W: [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)  
Office 1/7, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LP



## 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 General Meeting

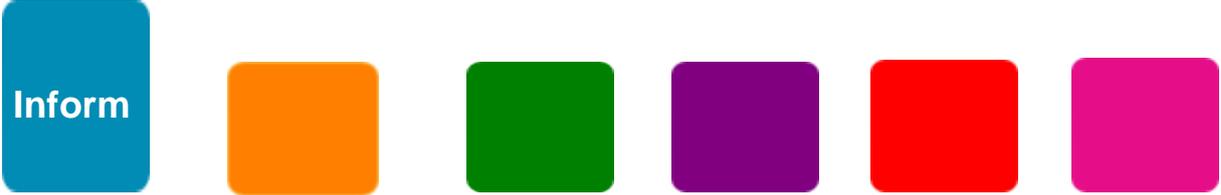
Our AGM is an opportunity for members to participate in the governance and representation of SDEF. Members will be offered the opportunity to attend members meetings, and where eligible, vote in elections and to stand as candidates themselves. Support will be offered to members to enable them to fulfill 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.



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## 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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