

Inform

# Scottish Disability Equality Forum

March 2016

## SDEF Voice 30

Dear Member

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

In this month's SDEF Voice, we would like your views on our member's magazine 'Open Door'. We would appreciate your time in answering our short survey below.

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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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## OPEN DOOR Member Magazine Readers' Survey

We are keen to make Open Door magazine interesting, relevant and useful to all our readers and so we would like to hear your views. The feedback we receive will help us to develop the content and design. We would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill in this survey.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L6LQ282>

Thank you for your time.

Note: All previous issues of Open Door magazine can be downloaded from our website <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-newsletter/open-door>

## Personal Independence Payment Consultation

This research is being conducted on behalf of Dundee Carers Centre and aims to gather the views and experiences of people currently claiming the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in order to gain a greater understanding of the current system and to generate suggestions as to how it could be improved prior to the benefit being devolved to the Scottish Government. Personal Independence Payments were introduced in 2013 to replace Disability Living Allowance for 16-64 year olds.

This survey is for people throughout the UK and focuses on people's views and experiences of the PIP application and assessment process as well as how the benefit is paid to people who require aids and appliances. These are items which are needed to complete day to day tasks such as eating, washing or dressing.

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and information collected will be kept confidential. This survey should take around 10 minutes to complete. All questions are optional so if you are unsure of any questions, they can be skipped. If you have any problems or would like to discuss an issue further please contact:

[s.f.christison@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:s.f.christison@dundee.ac.uk)

**Closing date for comments: 15 March 2016**

Link to Survey: <https://dundee.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/personal-independence-payment-consultation>

## Disability Roadshow Dumfries

We have the following event coming up:

- Dumfries: 9 March 2016, 1pm - 3pm, North West Resource Centre

At this 2 hour event we would like your views on the following:

- Transport - what are the issues of accessible transport in Dumfries and Galloway?
- Networking and Engaging - what are the difficulties with networking and engaging in Dumfries and Galloway?
- Inclusive Communication - we would like your feedback on a new inclusive Communication Hub being created.

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

## Disabled Access Day 12 March 2016 - Two weeks to go!

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/>

## Declaration Festival

### Equality Before the Law

4 March 2016, 2.00pm

'I Am Me' is an award-winning community project which aims to raise awareness of disability hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people. The impressive dramatic film of the same name is an engaging and powerful means to shine a light on one of the UK's most underreported offences. We will screen the feature 'I Am Me' followed by a panel with a range of stakeholders, who will discuss the right to equality before the law and the impact of disability hate crime on health.

Free, 15+

You can book a single ticket to this event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/07-equality-before-the-law-tickets-21560591309>

You can book tickets for the full day of events and see the full programme here: <http://www.declarationfest.com/tickets>

## Click Away Pounds (CAP) Survey

Freeney Williams LTd has been working in the field of improving website accessibility and usability for disabled people for more than 13 years and work closely with organisations such as the Business Disability Forum in this area.

Progress has been slow, however, with many organisations saying their sites are fine and there is no need to change them.

There is the Equalities Act, but no major cases have been taken as yet.

User experience tells us there is a major problem which means the law isn't being taken that seriously. Over 70% of websites reviewed have been assessed as "red"; in other words putting their owners at commercial, PR and legal risk. So if the law doesn't appear to deliver accessible or usable websites. Freeney Williams are trying a different approach, for which they need support.

They have set up the Click-Away Pound survey (CAP) to provide website owners with hard data about the business case for accessibility of their sites.

The Survey will gather data from disabled internet shoppers and publish a detailed analysis later this year with a view to getting business to think differently about their sites.

The Extra Costs Commission report published by Scope in 2015 found that 75% of respondents had walked away from a purchase because of lack of access in a range of areas.

The findings reinforced the message that businesses that fail to make their products and services accessible to people with disabilities risk missing out on a market estimated at £1.8 billion a month.

The CAP project is designed to examine and analyse what disabled shoppers do faced with an inaccessible website across a variety of market sectors, such as Travel & Transport, Banking & Finance, Supermarkets, Entertainment & Media, Technology, and Health.

The CAP survey can be found at: <http://www.clickawaypound.com>

Any questions, contact

[info@clickawaypound.com](mailto:info@clickawaypound.com)

## SCAM Websites Offering Blue Badge Services

A small number of scam websites have been set up claiming to assist residents in making their application for a Blue Badge. These websites make a charge for their service. They are NOT associated with any local authority or government department.

The most recent to come to our attention is at <http://bluebadgeonline.org> and there are others. A fee of £49 is charged to assist with an application for a Blue Badge.

We advise residents that it is not necessary to apply for a Blue Badge through this site, or any similar sites.

Applications for new, replacement of lost, stolen or renewal Blue Badges can be made online through <https://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge> or <http://www.bluebadgescotland.org/>

Note: The maximum a Council can charge is £20. Some charge less, but anything greater than that is just going into the pockets of scammers, and some don't even provide the badge.

## 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> **Closing date: 6 March 2016**
- Health Facilities Scotland  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9ZNCPNW>

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- Scottish Ambulance Service  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CCJW5B?sm=zpr%2bXqhwGT2NnL51UkiK7A%3d%3d>

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

<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.

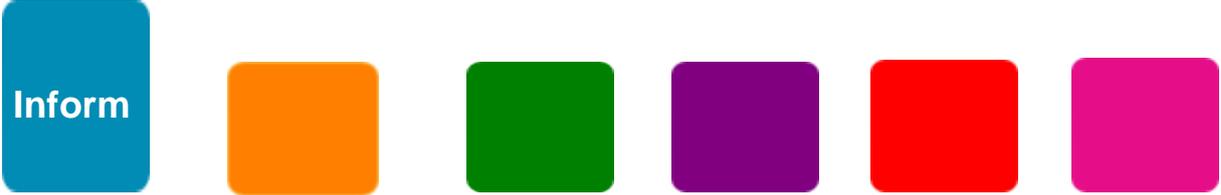
If you would like to find out more about the Inclusive Communication Hub, please contact Morven Brooks T: 01259 272064

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/>



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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.

## **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.

## 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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