



Inform

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

May 2016, SDEF Voice 32

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, Scottish Disability Equality Forum members' e-newsletter. It's been a busy month for SDEF. At the moment we're going round Scotland to get the views of disabled people on the accessibility of transport. The turnout has been fantastic and everyone we've spoken to so far has been so passionate about this issue. Check below to see where your nearest Transport Engagement Event is but, if you want to come, make sure you're quick - tickets are selling out fast!

In this month's SDEF Voice we are looking for your view on the current Scottish Government consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, we've got Access Panel news, there's an update on the new Inclusive Communication Hub and lot's more.

In this month's issue:

- Transport Engagement Event
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Inclusive Communication Hub
- Access Panel News
- Inclusive Design Scotland
- Benefits for SDEF Members
- Your Membership Matters

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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Transport Engagement Events

Accessible Travel Plan

Transport Scotland are working with SDEF, disabled people, transport providers and other Disability Organisations to create a plan which seeks to tackle barriers to travel for disabled people in Scotland. These issues were themselves identified by disabled people and cover all aspects of transport from accessible taxis, trains and buses, access to information and signage, hate crime, customer services and training, to accessible toilets and non-emergency transport.

Key actions to begin the work of this plan have been identified and disabled people are now being asked to give their comments on these suggested actions, how workable they are, what could be improved and any other thoughts they may have.

Survey

The following survey will ask a series of questions about the Vision, Outcomes and Actions of the Accessible Travel Plan.

Your comments are valued and will help to guide the direction of the work of the Plan.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BM2X3MF>

Engagement Events

We are also holding Engagement Events across Scotland to seek views from disabled people on the way forward around these issues.

Refreshments and Lunch available.

To book your FREE place contact:

Email: admin@sdef.org.uk

Tel: 01259 272064

Book Online: <http://tinyurl.com/jadeo94>



Dates and Venues

9 June 2016 The Usual Place, Dumfries and Galloway

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Part 2

This consultation gives you the opportunity to share your views on both the proposed guidance and the draft locality planning regulation. Community planning is the means by which people and communities can be placed at the centre of public service delivery and policy making. It is a key driver for public service reform at local level. This guidance provides additional detail to enable those who wish to participate in community planning to be able to do so.

SDEF have created a briefing document with questions, along with an Easy Read version. You can download these from:

<http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/395-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015>

Inclusive Communication Hub - your feedback

During 2015 The Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) and the Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF) formed a Consortium to develop an Inclusive Communication Hub for Scotland. The Consortium contributed with their wealth of knowledge and expertise in the development of this Hub.

The Scottish Government are now supporting SDEF, SAIF and Sense Scotland to take forward the development of this Hub during 2016.

The Inclusive Communication Hub will be the first of its kind for Scotland. This will be an easy to use online tool, for all who wish to be more inclusive with the information they deliver.

Inclusive Communication is, quite simply, communication that is inclusive. It is an approach to communication which enables as many people as possible to access and engage with organisations.



Inform

The purpose of the Inclusive Communication Hub will be to provide a 'one stop shop' for information on Inclusive Communication in Scotland.

A lot of good work has been done already by many organisations throughout Scotland but finding this information can be difficult. The aim of the Hub would be to have a central place for all this information to be kept or signposted to.

An Advisory Group is now being established to recognise the passion and long term commitment of individuals and groups currently working to improve Inclusive Communications in Scotland.

If you are interested in being a member on the Advisory Group, please contact: Morven Brooks, Communications Manager, Scottish Disability Equality Forum, Tel: 01259 272063, Email: morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk

Your feedback is vital in the development of this Hub, to ensure that everyone can find the information they need to support those needing communication support.

Tell us what you think! <http://includeusall.org.uk/tell-us-what-you-think>

Access Panel News

Below is an update on the Access Panel network that operates across Scotland. If you have any questions please get in touch with Ian at Scottish Disability Equality Forum.

A Message from Ian

I wanted to say a quick hello to anyone who missed my introductory e-mail that I sent a couple of weeks ago. This is my third week at SDEF and I'm really enjoying it. In my role as Access Engagement Officer it's my responsibility to make sure the Access Panels have what they need in order to carry out their role as productively as possible. If you need help planning a volunteer recruitment drive, a fundraising event or need some support in arranging anything you can get in touch on 01259 272066 or email me using ian.buchanan@sdef.org.uk



We will be looking at a different Access Panel each month and shining a light on the amazing work that you're all doing up and down the country. This means that it's even more important than ever to let SDEF know what your panel has been up to because you never know when it will be your turn! Whether it's by phone, email or in writing, a quick update on the work you've been doing in your local area is so important and it means that SDEF can then update Scottish Government, we can put your news into our quarterly Open Door magazine and we are able to update the wider public about the valuable work you all do.

Access Panel Spotlight

This month we will be looking at the work of the West Dunbartonshire Access Panel. I spoke to Jackie Maceira who, along with being the Convenor for the SDEF board of directors, takes an active role in his local Access Panel.

So Jackie, thank you for taking some time out of your busy, busy schedule to talk to me! Firstly, what do you feel the biggest achievement has been for the West Dunbartonshire Access Panel?

Recently we managed to change the way Self Directed Support is run in West Dunbartonshire. I wanted a Personal Assistant to help me with what I wanted, that would fit around what responsibilities I already have. The council were only giving me a choice of Personal Assistants from the council care team. I felt this was nowhere near what Self Directed Support should be. The Access Panel spoke to West Dunbartonshire council and made it clear that the rights of people with disabilities were being ignored with the result being that the council changed the whole way Self Directed Support is governed.

What is the membership like in the Access Panel? How do you attract new members?

The members are amazing, over the past three months we have had at least a 20% increase in membership. We've been putting adverts in the local paper, getting our faces seen on social media and we even teamed up with local radio to get the message out. I'm not saying it's easy to attract new members but if we can do it anyone can, you just need to get out there.



What are the plans for West Dunbartonshire Access Panel for the future then?

Well, our main priority is attracting young people, That's why the panel is going to be setting up a youth Access Panel that will be a sub-group of the main panel. We'll train them up using the training we received from SDEF and then we can help bring the issues of young people to the attention of the wider public.

Lastly, if you could give a piece of advice to the other Access Panels, what would it be and why?

Personally I would say that it's absolutely imperative that Access Panels work closely with their local council. You need to make sure that as an Access Panel you're approachable, friendly and give good customer service. As Access Panels people look to us for knowledge and if we're rude or act like we know it all then our reputation could suffer.

Next month we'll be chatting with another Access Panel to find out what they've been up to and so they can share their ideas. A big thanks to Jackie Maceira and everyone at the West Dunbartonshire Access Panel.

ALLIANCE Membership

The Health and Social Care Alliance (ALLIANCE) is offering all Access Panels free lifetime membership of their organisation. If you're a member of an Access Panel and want to find out a bit more about this then get in touch with Ian at SDEF or go to <http://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk>

Volunteers Week 2016

Volunteers week is an annual celebration of the amazing contribution volunteers make across the country. It takes place from the 1st to the 12th of June and it is a great way to say thanks to everyone who volunteers and donates their time for an Access Panel. Did you know that over 21 million people volunteer in the UK at least once a year and this contributes an estimated £23 billion to the economy.



We'd love to know what you're doing for volunteers week - are you having a party or are you all going out for a meal to celebrate the hard work of everyone who volunteers for your Access Panel? Send us your stories and pictures and you could be in the next issue of SDEF Voice!

If you want some help to plan a volunteers celebration event get in touch with staff at SDEF, we'd be more than happy to help. Ian has created some certificates that you can present to your Access Panel volunteers. Alternatively you can visit <http://volunteersweek.org/> for some hints and tips.

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

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

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
- 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.

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.



Inform

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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