

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

June 2016

SDEF Voice 33

Dear Member

Hello and welcome to issue 33 of SDEF Voice. It's been another busy month with our Transport Engagement events coming to an end, planning for this years Access Panel Conference and supporting Access Panels to increase their outreach and building their capacity. Carrying on from last month we have merged the Access Panel newsletter into SDEF Voice so you'll be able to have your SDEF news and Access Panel news in one newsletter. Our Transport Engagement Events were a huge success with over 100 people attending the events along with disabled peoples' organisations and Access Panels. The [Inclusive Design Hub](#) is now in beta and we would welcome any feedback you have about the website so click the link and the hub will open in a new window. In this month's issue:

- [Transport Engagement Events: What Happens Next?](#)
- [Inclusive Communication Hub](#)
- [Access Panel News and Spotlight](#)
- [Skye and Lochalsh Disabled Ramblers](#)
- [Edinburgh Trams Accessibility Study](#)
- [Insight WordPress Training](#)



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>



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



[Email Us](#)



[Linkedin](#)



Transport Engagement Events - What happens next?

Now that our Transport Engagement Events are finished we wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the Access Panels that were involved in helping us to plan and run so many well attended events. We have had amazing feedback from the people who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the events and make sure their views could be put across to Transport Scotland.

Now the events are finished we are in the process of gathering all the information together and reporting it back to Transport Scotland. Once Transport Scotland has all the information they will use your views and opinions to form part of their 10-year Accessible Travel Plan. They are hoping to launch this by September 2016. In the meantime, we will keep you updated with any developments and if you have any questions please get in touch with SDEF and a member of the team will be able to help you.

Inclusive Communications Hub

Following on from my previous communications on the Inclusive Communication Hub, I am delighted to inform you of the latest developments.

The Inclusive Communication Hub is now in beta phase and we are inviting Advisory Panel members to take forward the development of the Hub.

The only commitment we ask of you is for you to recommend and provide feedback on the design, functionality and content of the hub.

Please contact us directly if you would like to discuss this further. You can access the Inclusive Communication Hub by clicking on this link

<http://includeusall.org.uk/>

Alternatively if you would like to be on the Advisory Group please email us

usingIChub@scvo.org.uk

Kindest Regards,

Morven Brooks, Scottish Disability Equality Forum, Paul Hart, Sense Scotland and Mairi Whannel, Scottish Accessible Information Forum

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Access Panel news section of SDEF Voice which we hope has been keeping you updated on all the latest Access Panel news and tips

I hope you've been enjoying the summer with plenty of sun to get us up, active and out and about. Since the last issue of SDEF voice came out we have been joined by Dave Crozier, our new Access Support Worker. That means that your access team is now made up of Ian, Dave and James. We're here to support you and your Access Panel in whatever you might need in order to increase your outreach and build up your capacity.

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 Edinburgh Access Panel so I spoke to Robin Wickes who is the Chairman.

Robin told me that Edinburgh Access Panel have embarked on delivering a series of disability awareness training sessions for staff at Edinburgh College. Members of the Panel met with the Equality Manager at the college a few weeks ago to agree the scope and level of training that was needed. It was agreed that any training should focus on sensory impairments initially and should be fairly high level with 45 minutes on hearing impairments followed by another 45 minutes on vision impairments.

The first session took place recently at one of the college's four campuses. It was well received by the audience of 22 staff members and further offerings are planned in the near future for the other campuses. The Panel has also been asked by the college to widen the scope of their training to cover mobility and cognitive impairments which is great news and shows how well Edinburgh Access Panel has been delivering its training.

The current training is being delivered by panelists who have lived experience of sensory impairments. They are focusing on the everyday barriers that deaf and blind people face and in doing so are highlighting ways the college can help disabled people. To keep the audience engaged there's plenty of practical, hands on content on the agenda including a lip-reading exercise and an opportunity to simulate different types of visual impairments using Simspecs.

The panel is using this golden opportunity to also get their core message of equality of access across by covering aspects of the medial and social models surrounding disabilities, accessible transport and inclusive design.

If you think your Access Panel has been doing something that should feature here next month, then get in touch with Ian. If not, I will be picking a panel at random so be prepared!

A big thanks to Robin Wickes and everyone at Edinburgh Access Panel. I'm sure that every Access Panel would want to wish them well with their training.



Skye and Lochalsh Disabled Ramblers

Are you thinking about getting away this summer? If you are but haven't decided where to go yet why not consider Skye? The scenery is second to none and with the Skye and Lochalsh Disabled Ramblers group offering people with limited mobility the opportunity to explore the great outdoors there really is something for everybody.

Skye and Lochalsh Disabled Ramblers was formed in 2011 to allow people with limited mobility and their friends and carers to access the beautiful countryside in Skye and Lochalsh. Everyone who goes along has different levels of ability so everyone is welcome. There are four off-road electric scooters which allow users to get off the beaten track and provides them the freedom to explore the countryside.

There's a programme of walks that the group follows from Easter to October, some of them with the countryside rangers. All the trips out allow for different levels of stamina and ability with the guarantee of good fun, tea and cake!

If you're interested in joining, then membership is on an annual basis with a discounted rate for couples or associate membership for holiday makers. Get in touch with Nicola Rust on 01478 611056 to find out more or visit

<http://www.spanglefish.com/skyeandlochalshtodisabledramblers/index.asp> to see the scooters and members in action.

Edinburgh Trams Accessibility Study

Shane Donnellan, a Masters student studying Human Factors at Heriot-Watt University, is doing a study on how accessible the Edinburgh trams are for people who have a physical disability or have a mobility impairment.

The study is looking at how well the trams in Edinburgh meet the needs of users who have any type of mobility challenge or physical disability. This may be in terms of costs, availability of the service, physical elements of the trams or platforms which support mobility issues or act as barriers.

In this study you will be asked to complete a tram journey with the researcher. during the journey the researcher will ask you questions about your experience, how often you use the tram, how you feel the tram supports your needs and any suggestions you might have which could improve your experience. Participating in this study is totally voluntary and will take about 30 minutes of your time but the researcher will pay the price of your ticket for the journey.

If you want to take part contact Shane Donnellan before 7 July. You can email him at sd43@hw.ac.uk or you can call him on 07591 504 860

New Fund Co-Production Engagement Events

As part of the co-production process for the new Independent Living Fund, ILF Scotland has organised a number of engagement events across Scotland to hear directly from disabled people, their representatives and carers about what they think the new policy and criteria should look like for the new fund.

There are four events coming up in July. These are:

Monday July 4 from 10:30am until 3pm at Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Airthrey Road, Stirling, FK9 4LA. Lunch and refreshments provided

Wednesday July 6 from 10:30am until 3pm at Eden Court Conference Centre, Bishops Road, Inverness, IV3 5SA. Lunch and refreshments provided

Tuesday 12 July from 10:30am until 3pm at Dundee University, Dundee. Lunch and refreshments provided

Monday 11 July from 10:30am until 3pm at Novotel Edinburgh Park, 15 Lochside Avenue, EH12 9DJ

If you are keen to go to any of the above events please get in touch with Holly Child on 0131 244 6424 or email her on Holly.Child@ILF.scot. Remember to tell Holly if you have any communication, access or dietary requirements.



WordPress Training

Is your Access Panel using a free WordPress template yet? Are you worried that in order to use WordPress you would need a degree in web design? Well you needn't worry any longer because Insight training are offering all Access Panels WordPress training for just £550 plus expenses for 6 people. You can also use your Access Panel Grant funds to cover the cost of any training provided to the Panel.

The Insight training team come to you and they bring all their own equipment. The course takes place over one day and covers everything you will need to know to keep your Panel Town website user friendly and up to date. Please see the attached course layout document which explains what would be covered in a training session. Contact Ian at Scottish Disability Equality Forum to find out about the content of the course.

If you want to book a course, then get in touch with John at Insight training on 01236 733898

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>

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



Inform

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>

 [Tweet](#)

 [Forward to Friend](#)

 [Share](#)

Copyright © 2016 Scottish Disability Equality Forum, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

2/4 The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK0 3LP, Tel: 01259 272064, Email: info@sdef.org.uk Website: www.sdef.org.uk

[Subscribe](#) [Share](#) [Past Issues](#) [RSS](#) [Translate](#)

T: 01259 272064 E: info@sdef.org.uk W: www.sdef.org.uk
Office 2/4, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LF

