

SDEF VOICE



Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, your monthly newsletter from the Scottish Disability Equality Forum. In this month's issue you'll find information about:

- Access Panel Conference 2017
- Nairn Access Panel's awareness day
- Funding Update
- Inclusion Scotland's Access to Elected Office Fund

If you have anything you'd like the SDEF community to read about in next month's issue, make sure you get in touch with us.

Best wishes

The SDEF Team



A Message from Ian

Access Engagement Officer

Welcome to issue 42 of SDEF Voice. Since last month's issue I've been busy visiting Access Panels around Scotland and providing support and guidance to many more. I had the pleasure of being able to attend a disability awareness day held by Nairn Access Panel and you'll find a photo from the day further on. I also visited Glasgow Access Panel and took part in their access audit workshop. It was an informative and enjoyable day, attended by about 30 people.

Planning for this year's Access Panel Conference is also underway with the venue confirmed as the MV Hrossey in Aberdeen. Northlink Ferries have very kindly provided the venue and a lunch completely free of charge. The agenda and booking forms have already been sent out to Access Panel members but if you haven't received one please do get in touch and more details are below. I am aware that holding the conference in Aberdeen will involve travelling for some Access Panels but last year's conference was in Stirling and it's imperative we consider the geographical spread of Access Panels in Scotland and rotate the location of the conference every year to ensure fairness.

Lastly, with on-going support to the Access Panels and planning for our the conference, the next few months are going to be busy. I will be sure to keep you all updated on the progress of my work in future issues of SDEF Voice.

Best wishes

Ian Buchanan, Access Engagement Officer



Conference 2017

Access Panel Conference 2017



SDEF is delighted to invite you to this year's Access Panel Conference. The agenda and booking forms have already been e-mailed to Access Panel members and it's important that if you want to attend then you book your space as soon as possible. If you turn up on the day we cannot guarantee a space for you which may result in disappointment.

The conference starts at 11am where an early lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served. After lunch the Access Engagement Officer will formally open the conference with a short speech followed by two guest speakers: James Linklater of Northlink Ferries and a representative from Euan's Guide. We will then have an open discussion about Access Panels, a short break and then the winner of this year's photo competition will be announced.

For those that are travelling longer distances we recommend you book a hotel room in Aberdeen for the night before the conference. You can use your Access Panel Grant to cover any reasonable expenses.



Scottish Council Elections 2017 and SDEF Manifesto

With the Scottish council elections being held in May it's a great opportunity for our members to talk to their local political representatives about the issues that matter to disabled people. We surveyed our members and produced a list of pledges we hope will help address the issues closest to our members. We sent our pledges to MPs and MSPs and has been circulated to their candidates.

Pledge 1

Scottish Disability Equality Forum is a member led organisation. The Directors and staff of the Scottish Disability Equality Forum make a pledge to work with our members, for our members and in the best interests of our members.

Pledge 2

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum want clarity and consultation on the repeal of the Human Rights Act 1998 and any impending regulation on the rights of disabled people.

Pledge 3

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum want legislation changed so Access Panels become statutory consultees for all planning applications lodged with local authorities across Scotland.

Pledge 4

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum will encourage colleges and universities to ensure that the barriers to learning that disabled students face are overcome.

Pledge 5

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum want to raise awareness of disability hate crime; what hate crime is; how it can be recognised and reported.

Pledge 6

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum want to improve employment opportunities for disabled people by making disability equality integral to the working environment

Pledge 7

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum will promote our Inclusive Communication Hub to support anyone with an interest in improving their inclusive communication tools and processes.

Pledge 8

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum will continue to work with Transport Scotland to ensure disabled people are informed and included in each stage of the process to improve the accessibility of transport in Scotland.

Pledge 9

On behalf of our members, Scottish Disability Equality Forum will continue to work with the Scottish Government to ensure the ambitions and actions, set out in the Disability Delivery Plan are met in full.



Nairn Access Panel Awareness Day

Nairn Access Panel have once again held a showstopping awareness day attended by numerous children from local primary schools. Whilst planning the event we spoke to Seamus McCardle, a member of Nairn Access Panel, who said: "It's a great opportunity for us to get the kids involved when they're as young as possible and help raise their awareness of disabilities. It really is a full-on day for the panel members, with the day structured around workshops so it's a tiring day but very much worthwhile!"

Nairn Access Panel have been holding their awareness day every year for the past 7 years. The day has an element of fun but also an underlying message that's just as important: making sure that children grow up aware of people with disabilities. Getting the local primary school children to take part in the interactive demonstrations means they get to experience what it is like for people with disabilities in their community on a day-to-day basis. It was also an opportunity for the Access Panel to present their award to the Nairn Arts and Community Centre for making a positive contribution towards disability and accessibility. Liz Bow, Chairwoman of Nairn Access Panel, explains: "It was great to see so many children enjoying themselves and learning something at the same time. This will be our 7th year running the event and it just gets better and better each year. It's a worthwhile thing to do and not something we'll be stopping any time soon!"



Liz Bow, presenting the Nairn Access Panel Award to the Nairn Arts and Community Centre

If you're part of an Access Panel and are keen to do an event like Nairn Access Panel then get in touch with Ian Buchanan, Access Engagement Officer, at SDEF.



Access to Elected Office Fund

The Fund

The Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland has been set up to offer financial assistance to disabled people who are seeking selection or have already been selected to stand in the 2017 Scottish Local Authority Elections. The Fund is available to pay for practical support that can enable disabled people to fully participate in the process, covering “reasonable adjustments” that level the playing field between a disabled and nondisabled candidate only, not general campaign costs (see below). The Scottish Government fund this project.

The Fund is now open for enquiries and will run until May 2017.

Background

There are not enough disabled people in politics and elected office. Inclusion Scotland has been working to understand the possible reasons for this. They have worked with disabled people and political parties to research the barriers and have found that there are many things that may stop disabled people from getting into politics. One of the issues that was raised is money. People found themselves facing extra costs relating to their impairment. These extra costs could be enough to prevent them from getting involved and standing for election. Therefore, the Scottish Government has made the money available for the Access to Elected Office fund as a pilot project to see if this type of support could lead to more equal representation. Inclusion Scotland also offer an Access to Politics advice and support service for disabled people. They can advise individuals on how to

participate more fully in politics, and can also advise political parties and organisations about how they can be inclusive to disabled members.

Applying to the Fund

If you are thinking about standing for elected office and are keen to apply to the fund, then get in touch with Inclusion Scotland as soon as possible. They will talk through the tasks that you might do while seeking selection or campaigning if you are then selected. This will allow them to discuss the types of support that you might benefit from and ensure they have covered everything. There may be things that your chosen party can do to support you if you are seeking to represent them, and they will take this into account. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of disabled experts who will make the final decision on awards, and this can be appealed if necessary.

If you want to find out more information then click on the following link <http://inclusionScotland.org/information/employability-and-civicparticipation/access-to-politics/aeofs/> for more information about the elected office fund.

THE HUGH FRASER FOUNDATION

Funding Update - Hugh Fraser Foundation

The Hugh Fraser Foundation makes donations to charities working in many different sectors including medical research, hospitals, education, organisations working with the young and elderly, disabled people and those in poverty.

So long as the object is charitable the Trustees will consider any application from a registered charity. The Trustees' policy is to pay special regard to applications from Scotland, particularly from parts of Scotland where the local economy and/or circumstances make fund-raising for charitable purposes difficult.

The Trustees consider that grants to large, highly-publicised national appeals are not likely to be as effective a use of funds as grants to smaller and more focussed charitable appeals. The Trustees are prepared to enter into commitments over a period of time by making grants in successive years, often to assist in new initiatives which can maintain their own momentum once they have been established for a few years.

Exclusions

No grants will be made to organisations which are not registered charities or non profit making organisations.

Applications

There is no prescribed application form. Applications should be by a letter of application, which should describe the project, and include a budget, if

appropriate, and a copy of the organisation's latest accounts or up-to-date financial information.

There is no standard application form and application is by way of letter enclosing copies of the following:-

- copy of your latest accounts if formal accounts are prepared, or
- copy of your most recent Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure account or Bank Statement, if formal accounts are not prepared, and
- a copy of your Constitution or Policy Statement if you are not a registered charity (applications are accepted from non-profit making organisations).

The closing date for receipt of applications is generally one month before the meeting date. The closing date for the next meeting will be early May.

For more information contact:

Turcan Connell, Clerks to the Foundation
Princes Exchange
1 Earl Grey Street
Edinburgh
EH3 9EE

Telephone: 0131 228 8111

Your Membership Matters



Your Membership Matters

Below is a reminder of what we offer our members. If you would like to find out more then please contact us.

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 into our policy work and government consultation responses.

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.

Our Sponsors

Scottish Disability Equality Forum would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors whose logos are featured below. We're very grateful of their continued support for the work that we're doing.



Did you enjoy this newsletter? Do you have any suggestions or comments? Do you have an article you would like to appear in the next issue? Get in touch with us if you do. Our contact details are at the bottom of this page.



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