



Issue 41

February 2017

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 will find, amongst other things, information about:

- Our recent work including
SDEF Survey Results
Update on our work with the Health and Social Care Alliance
- Updates and Information on Disability Issues in Scotland
In particular relating to transport
- Ideas for funding for holidays and breaks for people of all ages with a disability
- A short summary of the role of the Third Sector Interfaces in Scotland. The help they provide for charities and community organisations and how that role complements the support we provide here with the SDEF Team.
- Quiz Just for Fun Go on have a go! Below is a link to a recent quiz on disabilities from the Advocates for Human Rights in America. How do you think this compares to Scotland? If you want to comment, please email Gillian on gillian.smith@sdef.org.uk
http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/disability_rights_quiz.pdf

Best wishes

The SDEF Team

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A Message from Gillian

Access Administrator

Welcome to the forty first edition of the SDEF Voice.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our monthly newsletter. I would appreciate any feedback or ideas you may have on this and or future issues.

Contained within this edition are our usual updates on joint working, current local and national projects on accessibility issues.

I have included some details on accessible breaks and holidays for families with a disability as something different and hopefully of interest to our members.

This edition also has news and information on the role of The Third Sector Interfaces in Scotland (TSI), together with our role in supporting Access Panels in Scotland. Both have a different individual function to support the Panels in their activities, development, and governance.

Best wishes

Gillian Smith, Access Administrator

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Survey Results



Scottish Disability Equality Forum recently conducted a survey of its members and Access Panels. We were keen to hear your views on our business and the benefits you receive as a member. We had 53 responses in total (this included individual members as well as Access Panels who responded together). The findings of the survey will help us plan for the future development of SDEF and the Access Panel Network. Our Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2020 will be published soon, which has taken into account the views from members and Access Panels.

Below is a summary of what you told us:

Communication

We asked for feedback on our communications. Overall, a majority of respondents were happy for SDEF to continue to communicate using methods such as PDF, Plain text, Emails, website, social media and phone.

Open Door

The majority of our members like Open Door and consider it informative and topical. Some commented that there should be more items on Access Panels and hidden disabilities such as dyslexia and mental health issues.

SDEF Voice

We also asked members for feedback on SDEF Voice. The majority of respondents found SDEF Voice to be good, with useful, interesting content that keeps everyone informed.

Change of Name

We asked our members whether Scottish Disability Equality Forum is the right name for what we do. The majority of members do not mind our current name and suggested Disability Equality Scotland



Fee for membership

We asked our members whether they would be willing to pay a nominal fee to cover the cost of their membership. The majority of respondents said that they would be willing to pay a fee. Suggestions ranged between £1 per year, to £60 per year, with suggestions for individuals to pay a different cost to Access Panels. For the purpose of this research, we have taken all the suggested costs for an 'annual membership' regardless of individual or Panel member. The average cost members were willing to pay was **£11 per year**.

SDEF's role in the future

We asked members to suggest what they would like SDEF's role to be in the future. There was a variety of suggestions. For example, our members see SDEF role was to show leadership, to campaign, to engage and act on the views of disabled people.

Most respondents want SDEF to remain as a support, guidance and funding source to Access Panels whilst linking and working with the Scottish Government to resolve access and disability issues. Some respondents commented that SDEF should train Access Panels on accessibility and equality issues to increase their effectiveness.

Further comments included maintaining contact with the Scottish Government and keeping up to date with changes to legislation and policy affecting disabled people, particularly regarding access. There were one of two comments that SDEF should provide advocacy or legal advice.

The most important thing....

Members were asked what they thought was the most important thing for people to understand about the disabled community. There were a variety of responses, but overall, the majority of our respondents want society to



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know that disabled people are the same as everyone else, able to contribute to their community, with the same rights as everyone else and should be able to live in their communities with no barriers. They would like to raise public awareness of disabled people's issues.

- “We all want to be able to lead a fulfilling and sociable life with access to everything.”
- “Numbers of disabled people will increase dramatically and we should be ahead of the game in providing improved Access. An awareness that disablement can happen to anyone.”
- “Part of the community and deserve full and meaningful integration.”
- “Disabled community comprises of people with very different backgrounds, abilities and needs. Most certainly not a case of one size fits all.”
- “They are people, ordinary people, who happen to have a disability. They can contribute to and participate in their community provided some adjustments are made to our physical environment. Let's make it happen, lets press for an inclusive world.”

The Health and Social Care Alliance

SDEF was approached by the Health and Social Care Alliance to see if we could help them with a large piece of work they have been asked to undertake by the Scottish Government. The work relates to the new plans for Social Security in Scotland as it is to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament. This will have an impact on our members as disability related benefits are among those being devolved. We are working with the Alliance to facilitate two focus group discussions with two Access Panels; one in Badenoch & Strathspey and the other in Renfrewshire. They will take place in March and give the Alliance feedback on how the new system would need to work, for it to be effective. There is also an online survey that can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XK9ZJY3>.

Analysis of SDEF's MP and MSPs' survey on Accessibility

We sent a survey to all MP and MSPs in Scotland. In total, we had 42 responses; demonstrating a response rate of 24%.

The survey was about the accessibility of their office space.

This article gives a brief overview of the findings.

- 88% of MPs and MSPs have an office on the ground floor, those offices not on the ground floor have lifts.
- 93% of respondents have level or step free access to their office space.
- Over three-quarters of respondents (76%) had accessible parking bays at their offices.
- 69% of offices could accommodate a wheelchair user
23% could accommodate a person with an assistance dog
3% for a person with walking aids
6% for a person with a personal assistant or carer
- Almost half (48%) of respondents said that there were accessible toilets at their offices with 13% having a hoist and changing table.
- Constituents can contact 57% of respondents by textphone, 29% of respondents by type talk and 14% of respondents by minicom.
- 90% of MPs and MSPs responding to this survey asked that SDEF provide them with further information on accessible formats.
- Just under half (49%) of all respondents, or their staff had received disability awareness training.

Some of the comments made by MPs and MSPs include:

- “We need to do more but it is often challenging within budgets. The Parliament itself is more accessible and we push for more assistance where that is required.”
- “The toilets in the office do have handrails, but ideally we would hope perhaps to ask our landlord if it would be possible to extend the area of the WC in the future to widen it, and perhaps realign the door to ensure an easier access for a wheelchair user.”
- “It is disappointing that with the increased awareness around accessibility and disability, our society is not more considerate. On a daily basis, disabled people are excluded from normal activities and yet simple steps would mean that everyone could join in.”
- “When holding surgeries, we always try to use civic buildings or community halls which are fully accessible.”

Updates and Information on Disability Issues in Scotland

Scottish Government Consultation on Social Security Issues

The Scottish Government have now formally responded to the consultation responses which you can find here:

<http://news.gov.scot/news/social-security-consultation-1>

Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman (SNP, Carrick Cumnock and Doone Valley), made a statement in Holyrood yesterday, saying that:

- A Bill will be introduced to Parliament before the end of June 2017;



- A Charter will be in the Bill, placing a series of statutory duties on Ministers to periodically review and report on the delivery of creating a fairer and more inclusive system;
- The Bill will provide a legislative mechanism for the people who interact with the new service;
- In the coming weeks, the Minister will announce the launch of experience panels – made up of at least 2000 individuals who have direct experience of the current system to design, build and refine a new and better model;
- An expert advisory group on Disability and Carers' Benefits will be established to provide ministers with independent, expert guidance and will be chaired by Dr. Jim McCormick, Associate Director of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

TRANCE –

Transport Accessibility News and Current Events

These are excerpts from the most recent information bulletin. Full details are available on our Access Panel Facebook page.



Shared space campaigner accuses council of hypocrisy over equality stance

A disabled campaigner has accused East Dunbartonshire Council of hypocrisy for flying the flag for equality while “discriminating against disabled people”.

<http://www.kirkintilloch-herald.co.uk/news/shared-space-campaigner-accuses-council-of-hypocrisy-over-equality-stance-1-4368642>



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ScotRail performance figures show 'improvement in last 4 weeks'

ScotRail have confirmed that its train performance is continuing to rise with marked improvement in services in the last four weeks. Perry Ramsey, ScotRail Alliance Operations Director, said that they would continue to keep customers at the heart of everything as they seek to consistently improve performance.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotrail-performance-figures-show-improvement-in-last-four-weeks-1-4365327>

Rail awareness open days

How can ScotRail improve your journey?

ScotRail Rail Awareness Open Days are all about making train travel easy and convenient for people with reduced mobility or a disability, and parents with prams and buggies.

Come along to an open day and find out more about what ScotRail do – and what they have planned – to make train travel accessible for everyone. Everyone is welcome

If you would like to attend a Rail Awareness Open Day, please register by email and tell them if you are attending as individual or as a representative of an organisation.

If you are interested, please email the address below.

Date: 29 March 2017

Time: 12.30pm-2.30pm

Location: Glasgow Central

Register: Equality/Advisory@scotrail.co.uk

Councillors set wheelchair challenge in Inverness

Highland councillors have taken part in a challenge to use wheelchairs to get around Inverness city centre.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-39026617>

Funding for Breaks for People with Disabilities and their Families in Scotland

Summer is coming and we thought some information on short breaks and funding, specifically for people with disabilities of all ages, might be of interest. If you want to discuss any ideas for funding you have please email gillian.smith@sdef.org.uk.



Take A Break

Take a Break is Scotland's short break fund for disabled children, young people and their families.



Take a Break

Take a Break grants can be used for a break away, towards leisure activities or outings; sports equipment and much, much more. Check out our website to find out if you may be eligible to apply and how to make an application.

You can also read how other people have enjoyed their breaks on <http://takeabreakscotland.org.uk/>.

Cystic Fibrosis

Holiday Fund



Every year Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Holiday Fund help to fund holidays and short breaks for children (under 18) with Cystic Fibrosis. As many as 10,000 people in the UK suffer from this debilitating disease. CF dominates their everyday routine and significantly reduces their life-span

The aim of the CF Holiday Fund is to offer respite to children with CF. Holidays are imperative for the physical and mental well-being of those we help, and just about the only time during the year a family can spend quality time together, share new experiences and create wonderful, carefree memories.

With your help, and with project *Revitalise World-Wide*, people living with cystic fibrosis can enjoy the holiday of a lifetime.

Visit <http://www.cfholidayfund.org.uk/index.php> to find out more information.

Seagull Cruises

Founded in 1978, the Seagull Trust Cruises charity offers free cruises on Scotland's canals for people with special needs.



From small beginnings, Seagull Trust Cruises hosted 22,841 passengers on 2,444 cruises in 2016.

A completely voluntary charity, cruises run from branches at Ratho near Edinburgh, Falkirk, Kirkintilloch and Highland at Inverness. In addition, the purpose-built holiday boat Marion Seagull, based at Falkirk, is available.



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To find out more about Seagull Trust Cruises and how it works to help people across the communities in which they operate, as well as how you can support them, please follow the 'Read More' links below.

In addition, Seagull Enterprises Limited operates the Wooden Spoon Seagull on behalf of Seagull Trust Cruises. This is a specially adapted boat for use as a floating classroom, which is supported by the children's rugby charity, the Wooden Spoon. The boat is also available for corporate and private charter at <http://www.seagulltrust.org.uk/>

Creative Breaks Fund

November 2016 – October 2017

What is a Creative Break?



A creative break is...

A time away from the stresses and pressures of supporting someone you love. It is your right as a carer to be able to access respite and many carers do not realise how important getting regular short breaks can be in helping them cope with the demands of supporting someone they love. It could be a trip or break away, equipment that helps you care, taking part in an activity or hobby... but whatever it is it should reduce your stress, improve your feeling of wellbeing and help you sustain your caring role.

For more information please click on this link www.alzscot.org

The role of Third Sector Interfaces in Scotland and SDEF in relation to Access Panels

There are 32 Third Sector Interfaces (TSI's) throughout Scotland. TSI's offer support and guidance in good governance to third sector organisations. Your local TSI will offer training and resources that covers all areas of governance, and can be found at www.vascotland.org/tsis/find-your-tsi



TSI Training and Development for Committee and Trustee Members

Do you know what type of organisation your Access Panel is?

Is it

- A constituted group,
- an unincorporated association,
- a Trust,
- a Scottish charitable organisation,
- a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO),
- a Company Limited by Guarantee,
- a Social Enterprise
- or a CIC (Community Interest Company)
- or a mixture of the above?

Do you feel you need some assistance to understand:

- the type of organisation that best suits your group and its aims and objectives and
- how do you become that organisation?



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Or do you feel your current organisational type is right and safeguards your committee/board/members? You perhaps just need some help and support with making sure you are complying with current legislation and good practice.

If you feel you need help with the above issues your local TSI (Third Sector Interface) can help you develop by providing training on governance training, for example

- Roles and Responsibilities of being a Responsible Trustee or Board member
- Understanding finance
- Committee Skills.

In addition, for example, were you aware the regulations for charity fundraising changed last year for charities and SCIOs?

Here is a list of contacts for TSIs across Scotland and some training information -

- Engage Renfrewshire (<http://www.engagerenfrewshire.com/>)
- EVOC (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/>) April 2017 (free)
 - Governance Four: An Introduction to SCIO (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/course/governance-four-introduction-scio-free/>)
 - Governance Four: Trustees Roles and Responsibilities (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/course/governance-four-trustees-roles-responsibilities/>)
 - Governance Four: AN Introduction to Charity Finance & Reporting (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/course/governance-four-introduction-charity-finance-reporting/>)



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- Governance Four: Setting up a Charity (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/course/governance-four-setting-charity-free-evening-workshop-5/>)
- CVS Falkirk – Claire Kennedy (Claire@cvsfalkirk.org.uk) can provide bespoke governance training for community groups
- STRiVE, East Lothian – STRiVE have recently just run some training around governance, and are currently organising more.
- West Dunbartonshire CVS provide a range of governance support training depending on the size and scale of the group.

Finally, below are the list of TSIs with their website addresses for you to keep an eye on their upcoming training events.

- North Ayrshire
 - The Ayrshire Community Trust (<http://www.theayrshirecommunitytrust.co.uk/>)
 - Arran CVS (<http://www.arrancvs.org.uk/>)
- Inverclyde
 - CVS Inverclyde (<http://www.cvsinverclyde.org.uk/>)
- Renfrewshire
 - Engage Renfrewshire (<http://www.engagerenfrewshire.com/>)
- East Renfrewshire
 - Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (<http://www.va-er.org.uk/>)
- West Dunbartonshire
 - West Dunbartonshire CVS (<http://www.wdcvs.com/>)
- Glasgow



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- GCVS (<http://www.gcvts.org.uk/>)
- Volunteer Glasgow (<http://www.volunteerglasgow.org/>)
- North Lanarkshire
 - Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (<http://www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org/>)
- East Dunbartonshire
 - East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (<http://www.edva.org/>)
- Falkirk
 - CVS Falkirk (<https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/>)
- West Lothian
 - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (<http://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/>)
- Edinburgh
 - EVOC (<http://www.evoc.org.uk/>)
 - Volunteer Edinburgh (<http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/home>)
- East Lothian
 - STRIVE (<http://strive.me.uk/>)
- Stirling Voluntary Enterprise
 - SVE www.stirlingenterprise.co.uk
- Clackmannan Third Sector Interface (CTSI)
 - <http://www.ctsi.org.uk/>



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Role of SDEF's Access Team in Supporting Access Panels

Our role is different from the TSI's and below are examples of how we support the Access Panel Network on a day to day basis.

- Accessing funding, particularly with the Access Panel Grant. All Access Panels can apply. These monies are to help Panels grow and develop.
- Insurance, SDEF has secured insurance covering -

Public Liability – to protect the Panel against claims for injury.

There are no forms to fill in. Access Panels are automatically covered. Just contact Gillian at the SDEF office and she will provide you with all the relevant paperwork.

- Day to day support with, for example

Press releases

Organising events

Help with funding applications

Providing information relating to the Access Panel development and associated legislation around disability issues.

Both the local TSIs and the SDEF Access Team can provide complementary support to Access Panels, assisting in their continuing development, sustainability and being financially responsible. All equally important in these challenging times.



Access Panel Grant Funding

Finally, regarding the 2016/17 Access Panel Grants, the deadline for applications is mid-May 2017. We would encourage those of you who have not yet applied or have monies remaining in your year's allocation to get in touch. If you want to know more call Ian or Gillian on 01259 272066 or email ian.buchanan@sdef.org.uk or gillian.smith@sdef.org.uk

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 for 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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