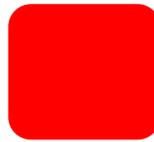
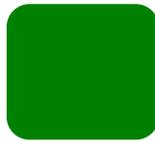
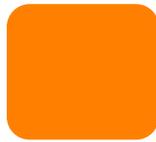




Inform



# SDEF Voice

**Scottish Disability Equality Forum Monthly Newsletter**

Issue 43 - April 2017

Dear Member

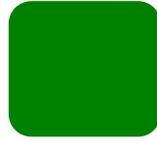
Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, your monthly newsletter from the Scottish Disability Equality Forum. In this month's issue, you will find information about:

- Annual General Meeting 2017
- Accessible Travel Framework Surveys
- Weekly Poll Roundup
- Latest Consultations

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

Best wishes,

SDEF team



# Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017



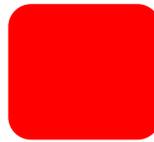
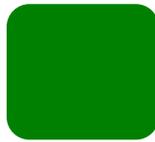
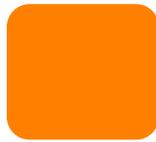
We are pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Perth Concert Hall, Mill Street, Perth, PH1 5HZ on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 10.00am. Please note that in previous communications the date was listed as Wednesday 27 September. We changed the date as it clashed with the Inclusion Scotland AGM.

If you would like to attend the SDEF AGM 2017, please complete the booking form sent to you. Please return your completed booking form no later than Wednesday 16 August 2017 to allow arrangements for communication, access or dietary requirements. Please send your form to the address below or email [maeve.bain@sdef.org.uk](mailto:maeve.bain@sdef.org.uk)

You can also register to attend by completing our online booking form:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-disability-equality-forum-agm-2017-tickets-34100364107](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-disability-equality-forum-agm-2017-tickets-34100364107)

We look forward to welcoming our members!



# Accessible Travel Framework Surveys



TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND  
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Scottish Disability Equality Forum is working with Transport Scotland to undertake research into Accessible Travel. In September 2016, Transport Scotland published Scotland's first [Accessible Travel Framework](#). This is a new plan, co-produced with disabled people to help improve their access to travel. Transport Scotland has a vision that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice, dignity and opportunity as others.

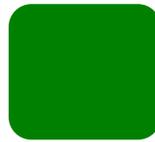
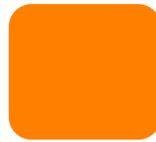
Our research involves gathering the views of disabled people on how you find travelling on public transport just now, and how Transport Scotland's work to apply the framework can best help improve accessibility for disabled people.

To help with this, we have developed a survey. We would like this to be completed by as many disabled people as possible, so please share it round your networks. This survey will act as a baseline to gather information about experiences of public transport, and we will build on this over the lifetime of the Accessible Travel Framework.

To complete the survey, please click the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HNBTQHT>

In addition, there is a separate survey for Transport Providers, so that we can also find out their views on accessible travel.



## Accessible Travel Hub Nominated For Three Scottish Transport Awards

**STA**

SCOTTISH  
TRANSPORT  
AWARDS

**15 JUNE**

Radisson Blu Hotel  
Argyle St, Glasgow G2 8DL

We are delighted to announce that the Accessible Travel Hub ([www.accessibletravel.scot](http://www.accessibletravel.scot)) has been shortlisted in three categories for the Scottish Transport Awards 2017. The Accessible Travel Hub is online resource developed by the Scottish Disability Equality Forum that brings together information, articles and guidance on Accessible Travel in Scotland.

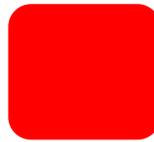
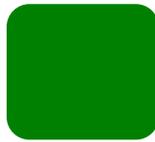
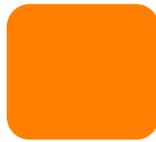
Shortlisted categories:

- Excellence in Travel Information and Marketing
- Excellence in Technology and Innovation
- Accessibility Project of the Year

Now in its 15th year, the prestigious Scottish Transport Awards 2017 brings together the transport community to recognise and celebrate industry achievements across Scotland. Supported by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, this year's ceremony will be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow on 15th June 2017. Roy Brannen, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland on the Scottish Transport Awards:

“These Awards are a great opportunity to recognise the contribution by our professionals in improving and enhancing Scotland's transport networks. Everyday Transport Scotland sees the effort, collaboration and results from everyone involved in providing a successful journey for Scotland's travelling public, and I am delighted to be asked to take on the task of helping to judge and identify these nominated schemes that showcase the best approach.”

For more information about the Scottish Transport Awards 2017, please visit: [www.transporttimes.co.uk/awards.php/Scottish-Transport-Awards-3/](http://www.transporttimes.co.uk/awards.php/Scottish-Transport-Awards-3/)



# Weekly Poll

## April Roundup

### Have Your Say...

Gathering the views of disabled people in Scotland



The Weekly Poll is a simple YES/NO question published each week on our Your Say on Disability website: [www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk/](http://www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk/) There is also an opportunity to leave a comment on the chosen topic.

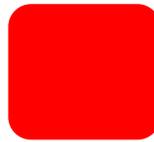
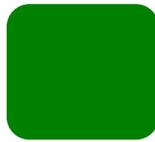
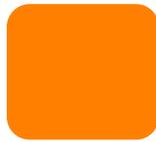
Thank you to everyone who completed our Weekly Poll during the month of April. Below is a summary of the four questions we asked during April, along with your responses.

### Planning Applications

Question: Do you think Access Panels should be asked to comment on all local planning applications?

Answer: Yes-96% (46 respondents) No - 4% (2 respondents)

Key comment: "This would ensure those with knowledge of accessibility and inclusive design are involved from the start and hopefully prevent the costly retro fixes due to poor planning."



## Housing Adaptations

Question: Since 2014, have you had to make any adaptations to your home because of your disability?

Answer: Yes - 65% (17 respondents) No - 35% (9 respondents)

Key comment: "I feel unsure of my rights in terms of what local authorities should be doing, compared to what is my own responsibility as a disabled person having to adapt my home and garden to best accommodate my wheelchair."

## Accessible Tourism

Question: Do you find it easy to book accessible holidays?

Answer: Yes – 27% (11 respondents) No 73% (30 respondents)

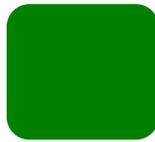
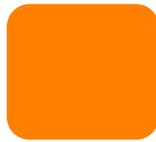
Key comment: "I normally have to compromise on features of accommodation or accept that I will have to lose some of my independence while at the accommodation."

## Mental Health

Question: Do you think the Scottish Government's Mental Health Strategy will improve mental health services in Scotland over the next ten years?

Answer: Yes – 57% (20 respondents) No - 43% (15 respondents)

Key comment: "I really hope it does but there needs to be continued funding."



# Consultations

## Consultation on the British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan

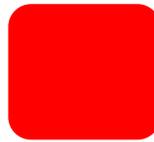
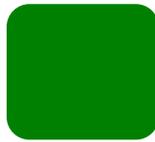
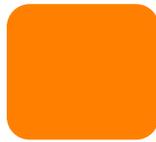


There is still time to complete The Scottish Government consultation on the Draft British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan. The deadline for responses is Wednesday 31st May.

The consultation aims to gather views on the proposed actions within the Plan, which has been produced in collaboration with the BSL National Advisory Group.

This draft plan covers the whole of the Scottish Government and over 50 national public bodies Scottish Ministers have responsibility for, and will cover the next 6 years to 2023.

To submit your response, or for further information, please visit the Scottish Government's consultation website: [consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/bsl-national-plan/](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/bsl-national-plan/) or the BSL National Plan Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/bslnationalplan](https://www.facebook.com/bslnationalplan)



## Consultation on Improving Parking in Scotland

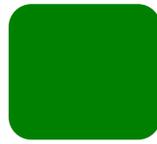


Transport Scotland want your views on improving the management of parking across Scotland and making regulation more consistent. The deadline for responses is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

The consultation asks how the Transport Scotland can improve the clarity of the laws of parking, what restrictions should be applied and the exceptions that should be granted.

Transport Scotland also aimed this consultation to local authorities to ask them how they can deliver an integrated approach to managing parking, how we should tackle displacement of vehicles and support the town centre regeneration, as well as improving accessibility to all.

To respond to this consultation, please visit our Your Say on Disability website: [www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk/transport-scotland-improving-parking-in-scotland/](http://www.your-say-on-disability.org.uk/transport-scotland-improving-parking-in-scotland/). Your response to SDEF will be collated with other SDEF member responses and submitted on behalf of SDEF.



## Personal Independence Payment (PIP) leaving disabled people stranded

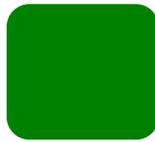
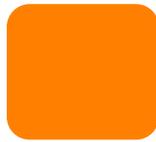


Motability, the charity which runs the support scheme for vehicles, recently revealed more than 50,000 people have had their cars reclaimed since Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was launched in 2013, replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Alex Thorburn, a Director of the Scottish Disability Equality Forum, believes the move away from the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is leaving vulnerable people stranded. Please note that the views expressed by Alex do not necessarily reflect the views of the Scottish Disability Equality Forum.

“The new PIP system can see adapted vehicles removed within 10 days of people being informed. You can appeal but that can take up to nine months or even a year. From that moment people may be totally stuck in their home. They might not be able to go shopping for food and may end up losing their jobs.”

“I have had cases in Dumfries and Galloway where people have had to move from their homes in the countryside to come into town because they have lost their cars. The fact that 65 per cent of people who appeal eventually have the decision upheld shows the new assessment is not fit for purpose. But by that point they’ve been without a vehicle for months.”



## What matters to you? Day 6 June 2017

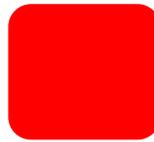
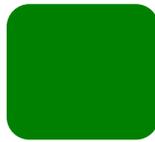
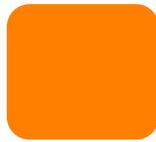


'What matters to you?' day is being held on 6 June 2017, please save the date and plan now for how you might join in on the day.

The aim this year is not only to encourage and support more meaningful conversations, but also to focus on the *action* that needs to happen in response to these conversations to deliver the care and support people really need and want.

We know from experience and evidence that the effect of focusing on what really matters to people can lead to improvements in the quality and effectiveness of what we do. Having a better understanding of what is important to people also helps develop relationships that provide the support and help people need to achieve optimal health and wellbeing.

Last year, 'What matters to you?' day had more than 520 health and social care teams across Scotland making a special effort to have more person-centred conversations with the people they work with. In addition to this, more than 100 teams from 13 countries joined our Scottish initiative. You can read more about it in our 'What matters to you?' day 2016 report at: [www.whatmatterstoyou.scot](http://www.whatmatterstoyou.scot)

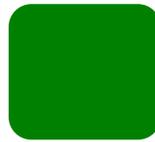


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‘What matters to you?’ day is being supported by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Public Health and Sport and the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing. They will be getting involved on the day as well as sharing messages of encouragement and good practice in the run-up to 6 June.

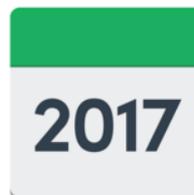
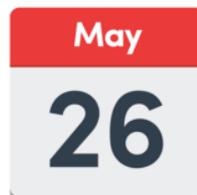
The Scottish Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s person-centred health and care team will also be supporting health and social care organisations practically to participate in the day by providing advice and resources through the website at [www.whatmatterstoyou.scot](http://www.whatmatterstoyou.scot).

To ask questions or find out more, please contact the person-centred health and care team at [hcis.personcentredscot@nhs.net](mailto:hcis.personcentredscot@nhs.net).



## Access Panel Conference 2017

There is still time to book your place to attend the Access Panel Conference 2017.

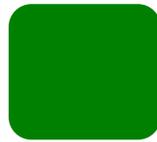
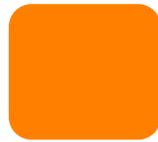


### Conference 2017

This year's conference takes place on May 26th on a Northlink ferry that is docked at the Aberdeen ferry terminal. The agenda and booking forms have already been e-mailed to Access Panel members and it is 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.



# North Ayrshire Access Panel Training

Inclusive Design - Understanding the Technical Elements and Tools

North Ayrshire Access Panel



Access for All!..... Opportunity for All!

North Ayrshire Access Panel are holding an inclusive design training day for Access Panels on May 23 2017 at The Hallmark Hotel, Irvine.

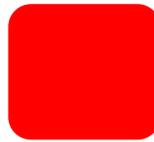
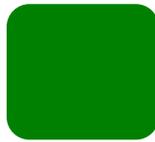
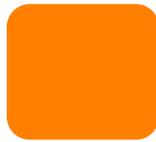
By completing the course, Access Panels will have:

1. Improved understanding of the theory of inclusive design.
2. Improved understanding of the technical elements of inclusive design, including the role of an access auditor, and the audit process.
3. Increased knowledge of the technical tools which support, and provide evidence, for the audit process.
4. Improved understanding, and increased knowledge of the practical implementation of inclusive design.

If you are interested in attending the training, please contact North Ayrshire Access Panel:

Telephone - 07946 146011

Email - [secretary@naap.org.uk](mailto:secretary@naap.org.uk)



# 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.

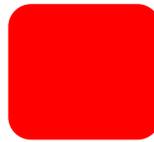
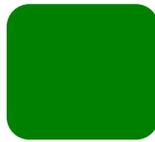
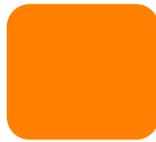
### **Your views, experiences, and expertise**

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.



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'Improving Equality of Access'



Humanism in Scotland

Blackwood

homes | care | support



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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