

# SDEF Voice

## Scottish Disability Equality Forum Monthly Newsletter

Issue 44 - May 2017

Dear Member

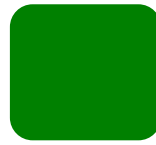
Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, your monthly newsletter from the Scottish Disability Equality Forum. In this month's issue, you will find information about:

- Access Panel Conference 2017
- SDEF Easy Read Service
- A Journey in My Wheels – Blog and YouTube channel
- Latest Consultations and Surveys

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



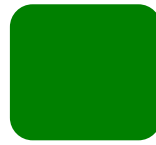
## Access Panel Conference 2017



After months of planning by the Access team at SDEF our annual Access Panel conference was held last Friday in Aberdeen.

SDEF would like to thank all those who attended and to the people who delivered a presentation at the conference. We held the conference on board the MV Hjaltland, which was docked; in Aberdeen harbour before its return trip to Shetland.

For more information about the Access Panel Conference 2017, please visit the Access Panel Network: <http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/access-panel-conference-2017/>



# Scottish Disability Equality Forum Easy Read Service



## We have the expertise to produce information in Easy Read

The Scottish Disability Equality Forum provide a professional and efficient Easy Read service to all sectors, as part of our commitment towards improving access to information for all.

## What is Easy Read?

Easy Read is an accessible format that makes written information easier to understand. The Easy Read format is easy to understand because it uses simple, jargon free language, shorter sentences and supporting images.

## Why produce Easy Read documents?

Easy Read documents make information more accessible to people with learning disabilities. They can also be useful for people with other communication difficulties including:

- acquired brain injury
- dyslexia



- people with hearing impairment whose first language is British Sign Language (BSL)
- people who do not speak English as their first language
- people who find reading difficult
- people with cognitive impairments such as dementia.

## The Equality Act

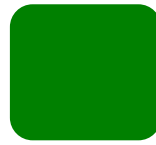
The Equality Act (2010) requires organisations to produce information in an accessible format. Easy Read can ensure that disabled people have equal access to information and are not discriminated against.

## Who do I contact?

For more information about the Scottish Disability Equality Forum Easy Read service, please contact us by telephone or email:

Telephone: 01259 272064

Email: [admin@sdef.org.uk](mailto:admin@sdef.org.uk)



# Accessible Travel Framework Surveys

There is still time to take our Accessible Travel survey about your experiences of public transport

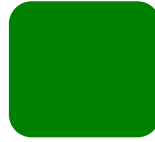


**Closing Date: Friday 9 June**

The Scottish Disability Equality Forum is working with Transport Scotland to undertake research into Accessible Travel. 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.

So far we have received over 160 responses to the user survey. The key findings are:

- 44% have experienced difficulties changing between modes of transport
- Leisure, shopping and medical appointments are popular trips by public transport
- Accessibility of the mode of transport, such as accessibility of buses or trains is the biggest barrier facing disabled passengers (48%) followed by the frequency of the service (42%) and whether there is a suitable route to travel (42%)



- The most important aspect of traveling on public transport for disabled people was having independence (72%) and that they can travel with confidence (52%) and travel safely (51%)
- 43% were satisfied overall with the accessibility of public transport in their area.

To complete the survey, please click the following link:

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



## Scottish Disability Equality Forum - Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017



The Scottish Disability Equality Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017 will be held at the Perth Concert Hall, Mill Street, Perth, PH1 5HZ on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 10.00am.

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!



## A Journey In My Wheels



The following article is by Claire D'All, a blogger and YouTuber who hopes to diminish the negative views that some people have on people living with a disability.

“Hi everyone I’m Claire and I have been a wheelchair user since I was 3 years old, I was born with muscle weakness which affects the ability for me to move my legs, resulting in me not being able to walk or weight bear at all. Along with my muscle weakness I have a few health issues that may arise occasionally or that I live with daily. These issues affect my breathing and other aspects of my life. I never let any of this stop me though from achieving anything I want out of life and last year I graduated with a BSc(Hons) in Applied Computing

Although I have never let my disability rule my life it is a big part of who I am and even though my main focus is finding a job in the field of Web Development I saw potential in writing about my life with a disability. Hence the name of my blog and YouTube channel, “A Journey In My Wheels”. Through my blog and YouTube channel I hope to diminish the negative views that I feel some people have about living with a disability by showing them that in regards to myself I am just like everyone else.



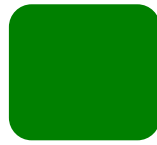


I am hoping to open people's eyes to the hurdles that people like myself with a physical disability face whilst also showing people that may be living with a disability themselves that their impairment doesn't own them, they own it.

Whatever hurdles you may come across you're stronger than them. It may be hard sometimes, life's not easy, for anyone impairment or not, but you can fight it. If you would like to learn more about me and how I live with my disability then please visit my blog and YouTube channel. You can subscribe to both so you get notified when I post something and you don't miss a thing."

Please click on the links below to follow Claire's blog, YouTube channel and related social media:

- Blog: <http://www.ajourneyinmywheels.org/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUvjpMEFEC1ANFzE96QZp5Q>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ajourneyinmywheels/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/clairedall>
- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/claire\\_dall/](https://www.instagram.com/claire_dall/)



## Do you want to help improve the accessibility of the Scottish Government websites and digital services?

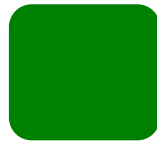


**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

The Scottish Government is always working to make websites and digital services as accessible and usable as possible. We are looking for volunteers with disabilities and who use assistive technology. We would like to create a user community that could help by giving feedback on projects where invited.

Activities would range from a one-hour interview in your home or at a Scottish Government office, reviewing a website at home and providing feedback by email or completing a short survey. The activities may include a reward for taking part and expenses may be refunded.

If you would like to be included in the user community, or if you require any more information, please email James Davidson, SDEF Online Access Worker: [james.davidson@sdef.org.uk](mailto:james.davidson@sdef.org.uk)



## Employers urged to think differently about disability

# Employability in Scotland

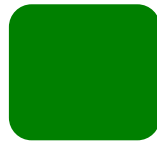
A new campaign has launched to help employers in Scotland recognise the benefits of employing staff with disabilities.

With only around 40 per cent of disabled people aged 16-64 in employment compared to around 80 per cent of non-disabled people, the campaign aims to increase job opportunities for disabled people by raising awareness of the untapped talent that exists in Scotland.

As well as gaining access to a wider pool of talent and skills, employers can benefit from financial incentives and schemes such as Access to Work which supports businesses with any extra costs incurred as a result of employing a person with a disability.

The campaign forms part of a range of measures being undertaken by the Scottish Government to help reduce the disability employment gap, including the recently launched Work Able Scotland programme which will help 4,800 people with health conditions and disabilities into work.

For further support and advice on employing people with disabilities visit : <http://www.employabilityinScotland.com/news-events/latest-news/may-2017/tackling-the-disability-employment-gap/>.



## Doorstep Crime Campaign



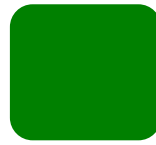
The Scottish Disability Equality Forum is supporting Police Scotland's campaign to #BeatDoorstepCrime.

It's a despicable crime which targets the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Please share these keep safe messages to help vulnerable neighbours, family and/or friends #BeatDoorstepCrime:

- Keep front and back doors locked
- Fit a door chain or bar – and use it!
- Expecting someone? Only let callers in if they have an appointment. The message is: if in doubt, keep them out!
- Always ask for ID
- Don't keep large sums of money at home
- Look out for those in your community
- Report anything suspicious straight away
- Call 999 and ask for the police if you feel scared or threatened

Find out more at <http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/doorstep-crime-and-bogus-callers>



# Weekly Poll - Your Feedback

## May 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 May. Below is a summary of the four questions we asked during May, along with your responses.

#### **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

Question: Have you, or someone you know, lost a motability vehicle as a result of transferring from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)? YES/NO

Your feedback: Yes- 38% (14 respondents) No - 62% (23 respondents)

Key comment: "Clearly Motability scheme users are very vulnerable, have very little leverage and control and at the mercy of others"



## **Brexit**

Question: Do you think disabled people in Scotland will be better or worse off as a result of Brexit? BETTER/WORSE/STAY THE SAME

Your feedback: Better - 5% (2 respondents) Worse - 66% (25 respondents)  
Stay the same - 29% (11 respondents)

Key comment: "Disabled people need to be considered in the negotiations. However Brexit is such an unknown quantity, groups like our Forum need to lobby negotiators for a good outcome."

## **British Sign Language (BSL)**

Question: Do you think British Sign Language (BSL) should be taught in schools as a second language? YES/NO

Your feedback: Yes – 88% (38 respondents) No 12% (5 respondents)

Key comment: "I think it would be great. What a fantastic way to ensure all our school children feel included and welcomed. "

## **Accessible Taxis**

Question: Since April 6th 2017 Have you, or someone you know, been charged extra when using an accessible taxi in Scotland?

Your Feedback: 81% (21 respondents) answered NO as they or someone they knew had not been charged extra for using an accessible taxi in Scotland since April 6 2017. 19% (5 respondents) answered YES and had been charged extra.

Key comment: "I was over charged I didn't notice I had been until the return journey by the same private hire company for £4 less for a 3 mile journey."



# Consultations and Surveys

## Consultation on Improving Parking in Scotland



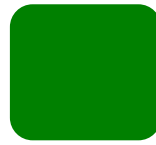
### Closing Date: Friday 30th June

Transport Scotland want your views on improving the management of parking across Scotland and making regulation more consistent.

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 at local authorities to ask 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.



## Keep Safe General Opinion Survey 2017



I Am Me Scotland is a community charity that works in partnership with Police Scotland to raise awareness of and tackle disability hate crime.

The Keep Safe initiative was developed in response to focus groups conducted in 2013, where disabled people said they did not feel safe when out in their local community.

Keep Safe works in partnership with Police Scotland and a network of local businesses to create 'Keep Safe' places for disabled, vulnerable, and elderly people when out and about in the community. People can access these premises to seek assistance and help if they feel lost, confused, scared, in danger, or have been the victim of a crime. Keep Safe Places are identified by displaying a sticker in the window, but are also listed on the I Am Me Scotland website and on the free Keep Safe Scotland app.

Keep Safe would be grateful if you could give them your views and help them make any improvements to ensure that Keep Safe continues to help make people feel safer out in the community as the network extends across Scotland.

To complete the survey, please visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCM5PPC>

For more information about the Keep Safe initiative:

<http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/keep-safe/>





# 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.

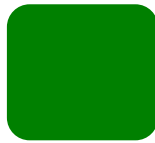
### **Your views, experiences, and expertise**

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 are very grateful of their continued support for the work that we're doing.



'Improving Equality of Access'



Humanism in Scotland



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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Our mailing address is:

2/4 The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK0 3LP, Tel: 01259 272064, Email:  
[admin@sdef.org.uk](mailto:admin@sdef.org.uk) Website: [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)