

# ACCESS NEWS

## News and Discussion from the Access Panel Network



Dear Access Panel

Welcome to the new Access Panel Newsletter. After some feedback from our members we've decided to split the Access Panel news from SDEF Voice off into a separate newsletter. You'll still receive SDEF Voice if you're a member of SDEF too so you won't miss all the latest news and updates. Next month I'll be starting an Access Panel spotlight feature again. If you'd like to volunteer for this then get in touch. Otherwise I'll pick an Access Panel at random and interview them for the next Access News.

In this month's issue, you'll find information about:

- 5 Steps to Funding
- SEO Tips
- Access Engagement Officer's Update

Regards

SDEF Access Team



## **Access Engagement Officer's Update**

Welcome to Issue 3 of Access News. As with the previous issues there is an excerpt of the article followed by a link. The full articles are all available to read on the Access Panel Network website. Keep your eyes peeled over the next few months as there will be some changes coming to the Access Panel Network website.

Over the past month I have had meetings with stakeholders and Access Panels. I had the opportunity to attend a meeting in Moffat, in the Borders, to find out how the Access Panels can get involved in community planning. I also attended the Promoting Inclusion and Transforming Lives conference held by Pamis in Dundee. It was a brilliant day with workshops on inclusive design and the built environment. There were free tickets up for grabs for Access Panels and some joined me on the day.

I hope you're enjoying the new format and as always, should you have any suggestions, comments, or feedback, please get in touch with me.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Buchanan".

Ian Buchanan  
Access Engagement Officer



## Search Engine Optimisation

Those Panels who use a WordPress based platform for their websites will probably be all too familiar with SEO, or Search Engine Optimisation. Here, I share five top tips for maximising your web content to make sure it has the biggest impact possible. Click the link below to read the full article

<http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/search-engine-optimisation/>



**Inclusive Design Hub**

## Launch of Online Housing Guide for Visually Impaired People Looking for a New Home

Leading sight loss charity Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) has developed an innovative online housing guide designed to assist younger adults with visual impairment find a new home. Click the link below to read the full article on the Inclusive Design Hub

<http://inclusivedesign.scot/launch-online-housing-guide-visually-impaired-people-looking-new-home/>



## **Five steps to Funding**

Whilst Access Panels are entitled to the Access Panel Grant from SDEF, this doesn't mean Panels can't look for additional funding if they're planning to apply for core or project funding. Follow these five steps to ensure successful funding. Click the link below to read the full article on the Access Panel Network website.

<http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/5-steps-funding/>



## **Funding News**

### **The Tudor Trust**

Tudor makes grants, and provides other types of support, to voluntary and community groups working in any part of the UK. They particularly want to help smaller, community-led organisations that work directly with people who are at the margins of society: organisations that support positive changes in people's lives and in their communities. They want to respond flexibly to your ideas and energy, and to fund effective organisations working to high standards. Their ability to be flexible can mean that they are well-placed to support organisations which are in transition, whether they are entering a period of growth and development or are responding creatively to challenging circumstances. Find out more about The Tudor Trust by clicking on the link below.

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

# Just to Note...

## **Just to Note**

### **Access Panel Grant**

We will be sending out a letter within the next week to all Panels regarding the Access Panel Grant. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

### **Access Panel Code of Conduct Consultation**

In 2014, a code of conduct was circulated amongst Access Panels. An update to the code of conduct between Access Panels and SDEF is long overdue. It's only right that we have a written set of rules guiding how we interact not only with each other but with the wider public whom our reputation depends on. Codes of conduct are seen all throughout the public, private and voluntary sector and by agreeing to the code of conduct we agree to a sense of shared culture, values, and communication. Does your Access Panel already have a Code of Conduct? Are you keen to help shape the future relationship between SDEF and Access Panels? If so, please send your suggestions and thoughts for what should be in the new Code of Conduct to Ian Buchanan, Access Engagement Officer using [ian.buchanan@sdef.org.uk](mailto:ian.buchanan@sdef.org.uk) by 30 July 2017.

## **Updating SDEF on what your Access Panel has been doing**

Access Panels will be aware that SDEF must report to the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis to ensure they are being kept up to date with SDEF's activities. It's also important that Access Panels tell SDEF what they've been doing and what they've got planned. This is so SDEF can inform wider stakeholders and the public about the vital work that Access Panels are doing across Scotland. As Access Engagement Officer, my role is principally to provide support to the Access Panel Network so if there's anything that I can do to help make reporting to us easier then tell me. Perhaps we could arrange a telephone call where I can take notes over the phone for our Open-Door magazine or my quarterly report to the Scottish Government? Maybe I could make a template and send it out to all Access Panels? Either way, if there's anything I can do please get in touch as soon as possible. I use the word report in this sense to mean an update. An update on the work you've done over the past three months and what you have planned for the next three. It doesn't have to be huge and can even be in bullet point format if it's easier for you.

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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