



## Voice of Experience Forum

### VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



We are delighted to invite you to our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 28th August 2019, Dalziel St Andrews Church Hall, 47 Merry Street, Motherwell, ML1 1JJ.**

Light refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity to meet the Board Members and representatives of other North Lanarkshire organisations.

Confirm your attendance by calling 01236 439550 or emailing [info@voef.org.uk](mailto:info@voef.org.uk) **by Tuesday 20th August 2019.** Registration begins at 10am followed by a presentation from our guest speaker, Christina McKelvie MSP, Minister for Older People & Equalities, 'The Sair Fecht' play and our AGM business from 10:30am to 12:30pm when a light lunch will be provided. **We hope to see you there!**

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Tel: 01236 439550

Email: [info@voef.org.uk](mailto:info@voef.org.uk)

Web: [www.voef.org.uk](http://www.voef.org.uk)

Welcome to our July Newsletter!



We have been busy here at Voice of Experience Forum attending and planning events all over North Lanarkshire.

Here's a small selection of what we've been up to since the last newsletter:-

In April we attended a meeting relating to Shopmobility Development and met with Age Scotland to discuss the current work landscape and how Voice of Experience can influence this. We also attended a number of Assimilation Meetings across the localities to update our awareness of local funding requirements, community groups and our engagement with them. Planning for future Safety and Mental Health Promotion events continued, with future venues and dates being discussed. We were delighted to give a presentation at Motherwell Seniors Forum and attended Muirhead Seniors Forum's Tea Dance. A big thank you to those who attended both events for the lovely welcome provided to us on the day.

In May we met up with North Lanarkshire Disability Forum to discuss future partnership work with them. We attended the Friends of Gartcosh community day—thank you to everyone involved in this very popular event for including us in your day. We were also delighted to be involved in Cumbernauld Gala day in June which allowed us to raise our profile in the area.

## 'THE SAIR FECHT'

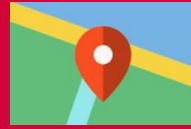
Following the successful launch of our safety event in Motherwell earlier this year, we are pleased to announce that the next performance of the Safety Play 'The Sair Fecht' will take place at our own AGM—details overleaf.

At this event, those attending will have the opportunity to discuss the issues raised with our partner organisations—Police Scotland, Victim Support, Trading Standards, Red Cross, Scottish Fire & Rescue and Road Safety, after the performance.

Delivered as a play, **'The Sair Fecht'** is about Fiona and Michael – she's getting home early from hospital. He's horrified!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON WEDNESDAY 28TH AUGUST 2019.

CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!



## North Lanarkshire—Locator

## Search for Activities and Services in North Lanarkshire

### What is it?

Locator is North Lanarkshire's online information tool to access details of community supports for people in North Lanarkshire. It includes community groups; activity groups; peer support groups and advisory organisations.

These groups range from physical activity, crafts, book bug, singing groups, historical interest groups and many more.

There are a large number of activities/services to choose from, from Activities for Carers to Befriending, Dementia Support to Handy Person Service and Mental Health Support to Social Groups to name but a few. Many of these activities/services have groups/offices in a number of locations across North Lanarkshire which can be contacted online, by telephone or even popping in to one of the sessions they have organised.

The information is regularly updated by partners in the Community Capacity Building & Carer Support structure in North Lanarkshire which is the mechanism through which North Lanarkshire's voluntary sector engage with our partners in Health and Social Care Integration.

Individuals and groups can search Locator for information on activities/services in their area or to add information about their group (see Promote your Project or Activity on Locator). If you don't have internet access yourself, why not ask a friend or family member to access Locator on their mobile phone, tablet or computer for you? It couldn't be easier and could open up a wide range of activities/services you didn't even know existed in your area.

### Promote your Project or Activity on Locator

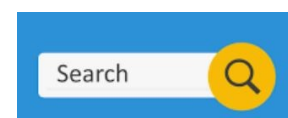
To submit an activity or project details for inclusion on the site, download a form and return it by email or you can also use the same form to send an update on activities you're already running that are listed.

### Get in Touch

If you have any questions about any of the groups listed; have any updates or corrections to the groups or wish to know more about the structures behind Locator, please contact your local 'host' organisation noted below.

- **Airdrie** – Frances McKay / Marc Howard 01698 404 055
- **Bellshill** - Irene Gibson - 01698 523258 / 01698 573 256
- **Coatbridge** - Claire Delahay - 01236 874520 / 01236 878 090
- **Cumbernauld / Northern Corridor** – Gabriela Mitas - 01236 451 393
- **Motherwell** - Frances McKay / Marc Howard - 01698 404 055
- **Wishaw, Murdostoun & Fortissat** - Christine McNally - 01501 825 800

[locatornl.org.uk](http://locatornl.org.uk)





## Powers of Attorney—top tips from Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland)

**What is a power of attorney (PoA)?** It's a written document that lets you give legal authority to other people i.e. your attorney(s), to make decisions on your behalf. The PoA lists all of the specific individual powers you wish your attorneys to have. You will need to arrange for your own PoA document to be drafted, as we don't provide this.

**Are there different types of PoA?** Yes, you can have a: Continuing PoA – for decisions to be made about your property and financial affairs. Welfare PoA –for decisions to be made about your health and welfare matters. However the majority of people make a combined PoA to allow decisions to be taken about their financial affairs and personal welfare.

**Who could be your attorney?** Your attorney should be someone you trust, someone who knows what your wishes and feelings are. It's important to make sure you have the same understanding about how and when your PoA is to be used. You can appoint anyone as your attorney such as, a relative, friend, a solicitor, spouse / partner. Attorneys must be over the age of 16 and, and if you give continuing powers they must not be bankrupt. There is no limit to the amount of attorneys you can have. It's worth thinking about appointing more than 1 just in case something should happen. You can appoint joint and or substitute attorneys. Attorneys must confirm that they are willing to act.

**When is your PoA to begin?** If you want to give continuing powers, you need to decide when the continuing attorneys are to begin acting for you. This could be right away as soon as the PoA is registered with us or at a later date ie in the event of your incapacity. Welfare PoAs only begin if you become incapable of making decisions about your own welfare.

**Granting sufficient powers to your attorney** - Think about the short and longer term to ensure you give your attorneys sufficient powers to make decisions for you. PoAs can include powers such as; dealing with your bank accounts, pension, payments, investments, deciding where you should live. The Code of Practice issued by Scottish Government offers further guidance: [www.scotland.gov.uk/justice/incapacity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/justice/incapacity). Hard copies may be obtained by telephoning **0131 244 3581**.

**How is your incapacity to be determined?** If your attorney is only to make decisions for you if you become incapable, you will need to think about how your incapacity is to be determined. This information must be stated in your PoA document. It's also good practice to say who you want to make this decision e.g. it could be a GP or someone else you trust.

**Where can I get a PoA from?** Most solicitors can help you to draft a PoA and will give you legal advice. If you don't want to use a solicitor, other professionals can draft the PoA and some stationery shops sell PoA packs which can be used. Although we don't provide the actual PoA document we do have useful information on our website.

**Once your PoA is drafted you will need to be interviewed** - This interview is carried out by either a solicitor or medical practitioner to assess that you fully understand what you are doing. If they are satisfied with this, they will complete and sign the prescribed certificate confirming so. The date in box 2 of the prescribed certificate must be the same as the date you signed your PoA. The date at the end of the prescribed certificate where your solicitor or medical practitioner signs can be the same or a later date, but must not predate the date you signed your PoA.

**Your attorneys must confirm that they are willing to act for you** - We provide a registration form which attorneys sign to confirm that they are freely willing to act for you. The form can be downloaded from our website.

**Your PoA must be registered with the Public Guardian before it can be used** - If you have instructed a solicitor to draft your PoA they will usually send the documentation to us on your behalf. Other professionals may also offer this service. If you are opting to send the documentation to us yourself you can do so by either using the online facility via our website or by post. If using the postal system, please send OPGS:

1. The signed PoA document, with the prescribed certificate
2. Completed pages of the registration form
3. Registration fee, if applicable – see the website for current fees or telephone the OPGS

## Fight to save the TV Licence begins

### VoEF Membership

FREE Membership of Voice of Experience Forum is open to all older people and organisations representing older people in North Lanarkshire.

Benefits of becoming a member include:

- Regular Newsletters
- Invitations to events
- Being involved in consultations
- Your views & opinions being heard by other agencies
- Influence in the planning of service provision for older people

VoEF also deliver presentations throughout North Lanarkshire.

If you run a group or attend a group for individuals over the age of sixty and would like to book VoEF for a presentation, please get in touch with Beverley Lockhart using the details on page 1.

Membership is FREE!



Pensioners across the country have reacted angrily to the BBC's decision to means-test the over 75s' TV licence from June next year, with many saying they will now refuse to pay. The corporation announced on 10 June 2019 plans to take away the free licence from 3.7m people, and in future only make it available to those on Pension Credit.

At the moment, that amounts to around 900,000 people, with a further 1.3m pensioners who are eligible to claim Pension Credit, but have yet to do so. Just days after the BBC's statement, the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) organised a coach full of delegates from the annual Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool to demonstrate outside the broadcaster's Media City in Salford. Protestors were joined by actor, Ricky Tomlinson.

On the following Friday, NPC groups across the UK staged over 20 demos outside local BBC offices, involving around 1000 people. In London, campaigners also stopped the traffic in Oxford Circus, and media reports of the campaign appeared in newspapers, on radio, TV and online. Jan Shortt, NPC general secretary said: "We want the government to take back responsibility for funding the licence, but we also have to criticise the BBC for choosing probably the worst possible alternative." "At a time when loneliness among pensioners is reaching worrying levels and pensioner poverty has started to rise again, the government needs to recognise that it's not the BBC's job to fund welfare policy."

Pressure is also mounting on Conservative leadership candidate, Boris Johnson to declare his support for the campaign, after his rival Jeremy Hunt said the government should continue funding the licence.

A petition launched by Age UK and backed by the NPC has now reached well over half a million signatories, and a debate on the issue is expected in Parliament on 15 July. The NPC believes a number of Conservative MPs hold the key to overturning the government's decision and are planning to lobby them before the debate. More pressure will also be needed before the Autumn spending statement later in the year. "We have to win this campaign, because if we don't, they will come for the winter fuel allowance and the bus pass," Ms Shortt warned.

**Article:** Newsletter July 2019—Issue 145 courtesy of @NPC

**Photograph:** NPC Supporters outside Broadcast House courtesy of @Age UK