

GIVING A VOICE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE

Voice
of
Experience
Forum

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VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of our newsletter. We look forward to the longer days and warmer weather. We hope that you had a joyful Easter and had the opportunity to share this with family or friends.



VoEF would like to hear about your plans for the next few months and would welcome any pictures of days out or trips, either individually or in your groups, which we could promote on our social media and summer newsletter.

We are interested to hear what you would like to see or be involved in, either locally or across wider North Lanarkshire? This could be a focus group or a community initiative or a wider national issue which you feel that the Forum should be addressing. Voice of Experience Forum is always open to those who would like to become involved in the governance of the organisation as trustees. Ideally, you will belong to a community group which will also benefit from becoming a member and being represented on issues of concern.

Engagement & Participation Partnership



Something exciting is happening! In October 2023, VoEF joined North Lanarkshire Disability Forum (NLDF) and Lanarkshire Links to establish an Engagement & Participation (E&P) Partnership in North Lanarkshire. Part of this new relationship involves the administration of a funding 'pot' to promote E&P— launching on **17th April 2024**.

What is it? The Growth Pot Fund

Who is it for? Its open to groups, associations, and charities in North Lanarkshire.

How much can you apply for? Applications for between £500-£5000 are welcomed.

What can I apply for? We are keen to hear about activities that raise awareness of Engagement & Participation by local groups, associations and charities in North Lanarkshire. Check the NLDF website for more information.

Where can I apply? You can apply online at www.nldforum.org.uk and follow the link or you could print out the application form and submit to ramatu@nldforum.org.uk

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE 5PM 22ND MAY 2024

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM — YOUR VOICE AND VIEWS MATTER

CROSS PARTY AGEING GROUP

CPG on Older People, Age & Ageing



VoEF recently joined the Cross Party Group (CPG) with the purpose of escalating issues of concern to older people, at a higher level.

Without at least 5 MSPs from 3 different parties (the MSPs cannot hold a Ministerial role) the CPG can't exist. So, we really need your support by contacting local MSPs /those they have good relationships with, to encourage them be part of the CPG on Older People, Age & Ageing. In this way, we can continue to address issues which affect older residents of North Lanarkshire and beyond. We can currently achieve this through the Minister for Equalities. On a local level, we can try to lobby the Older People's Champion for North Lanarkshire (Councillor Angela Campbell) to take our concerns back to North Lanarkshire Council for consideration.

VoEF attended the CPG Annual General Meeting in March to participate in the discussion around Ageism.

Interestingly, statistics highlighted that for those potentially in receipt of pension credits, 850,000 eligible households, are not claiming pension credit with £1.7billion remaining unclaimed (Gov.uk) - could you, or someone you know, be one of them?

Consultations - Update Bill Smyth

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, VoEF have submitted our members response to the Proposed Bill for a Commissioner for Older People. At the recent AGM for the Cross Party Group (CPG), it was announced that Bill Smyth will be invited to attend the next meeting of the CPG to feedback on the current status of the proposal. We hope that he will accept this invitation and once we hear the outcome we will be sure to update our members on the impact of your consultations.



Voice of Experience Forum 2025 Calendar



As we prepare to enter a new financial year, our thoughts turn to our 2025 calendar. Previous calendars have been themed around participation and engagement, planning ahead, recovery/re-engagement for example. In the spirit of engagement and participation, we feel that it would be appropriate to ask our members for their suggestions on what the next theme should be. This will help to inform us of which local and national organisations to include and what information should be supplied. You can submit your suggestions by leaving a message on **01236 439551** or **07305 692098**. Alternatively, you can leave your suggestions on our social media channels or via our website **www.voef.org**

We are also happy to accept suggestions via the Royal Mail service, if this is your preferred method of contact. Either way, have your say. It is your organisation so don't be shy!

COMMUNITY AND WIDER INFORMATION



NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGION



Voice of Experience Forum Outreach

Voice of Experience Forum has recently begun to undertake outreach activities within University Hospital Wishaw, on the first Tuesday of each month. We are located in the main entrance foyer to the right as you enter the main door. Additionally, we are trialling a similar project at University Hospital Monklands Hospital, on the third Thursday of each month.

Both of these initiatives are aimed at promoting the organisation, increasing membership of VoEF and getting information to the wider community regarding the benefits of joining the Forum. We are also happy to provide signposting to other services and organisations we feel would be able to offer support and information on a wide range of issues so if you are attending or accompanying someone else, please stop by and say hello!

Spotlight Shotts

Spotlight Shotts are a group of local residents who want Shotts people to be able to experience the best theatre, music and art possible, either by organising transport to attractions outside Shotts, using group ticketing, or by showing in Shotts, the best Theatre, Music and Art that Shotts, Scotland, the UK and the World offers.

They want the residents of Shotts and surrounding districts to be able to enjoy plays, world class music, comedy shows, children's theatre, puppets and storytelling.

So they've set up this organisation, Spotlight Shotts, to help get the Henderson Theatre in the Community Centre back up and running to mount concerts and receive theatre shows.



SUMMER PROGRAMME

HENDERSON THEATRE
Kirk Rd Shotts, ML7 5ET



May, 10th 7.30 - 9.15 pm (£8, £5)
The Silver Keys



Lilnithgow Male Voice Choir



THE TANNER
WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY ALEX MISHKIN
May 23 & 24
7.30 - 8.30 pm
Tickets: £8, £5
Adult Drama (age 18+)



THEATRE PRESTO PRESENTS
OOR BOOBY
BROODNED AAF ABROAD!
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PRESTON CLARE
July 9 & 11 7.00-8.00 pm, £5

For more information and to buy tickets go to www.spotlightshotts.org



In the meantime, they plan to organise regular coach trips to theatres and the wonderful art galleries and museums all within 30 miles of Shotts.

Spotlight Shotts are happy to announce their summer program for 2024. You can find out more information, and buy tickets for events at www.spotlightshotts.org

INFORMATION FROM ACROSS NORTH LANARKSHIRE

VoEF Membership

FREE Membership of Voice of Experience Forum is open to anyone over the age of 60 and organisations representing older people in North Lanarkshire.

Benefits of becoming a member include:

- Regular Newsletters
- Invitations to events
- Involvement 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 60 and would like to book VoEF for a presentation, please get in touch with Denis O'Keefe using the details on page 1.

Remember, Membership is **FREE!**

North Lanarkshire Public Partnership Forum

North Lanarkshire Public Partnership Forum exists to represent the views of the public on health and social care matters both within North Lanarkshire and, where appropriate, at a national level.



The membership of the Forum covers the Northern Corridor, Kilsyth and Villages, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, Murdostoun & Fortissat Community and a wide range of related organisations from the Health and Social care sectors.

The forums are made up of members of the public, carers, local community groups and voluntary organisations. You do not need to be a member of an existing group to join.

For more information or to get involved email -

LQA@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk.

SCAM ALERT!

Doorstep Scams: Inspections



A couple in the Central Belt were recently cold called by a man who said he wanted to inspect building work carried out the previous year by another company. They agreed to let him check the roof, after which he told them he had discovered various issues.

He gave them a quotation for £3,000 to resolve the issues he had supposedly found and asked for a deposit of almost £700. After the couple had paid the deposit, they did some research online and couldn't find any information about the company the man said he worked for. They contacted the company who had done work for them the previous year, who said they had no knowledge of the inspection.

How to Avoid

Any unsolicited trader who offers to carry out work on your property must give you their business name and address. Don't agree to let a cold caller start work straight away - do plenty of research into their company and, if something doesn't look right, don't deal with them.

Rather than dealing with cold callers, find traders who have been vetted through a national or local authority approved trader scheme at approvedtrader.scot

Report any suspicious behaviour to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Report scams to **Advice Direct Scotland** on **0808 164 6000** or via scamwatch.scot.