

# Dundee City Council Equality and Diversity Newsletter **Issue 3**

Imagine arranging to meet with friends at a restaurant you had never been to before. At the front door you find that you could not get in without lots of fuss and embarrassment. Once inside you find the toilet seems to be inaccessible to you, the menu is just a blur and you can't understand what people are saying.

For many people with disabilities, going to a restaurant, cinema or theatre can be a difficult and frustrating process. Even when trips out are carefully planned and the venue has been asked about disabled access, the information provided can often be inaccurate or the facilities unsuitable.

Equally, businesses who have invested in making their business 'disabled friendly' may struggle to make sure that all their potential customers know about their inclusive service.

To help tackle these problems and encourage people with disabilities to visit and make use of the many attractions in the City, Dundee City Council has entered into a partnership with DisabledGo, one of Europe's largest disability organisations.



Over the next 5 years DisabledGo will provide and maintain a detailed on-line access guide to 1000 venues across the City. The venues are chosen by people with a disability, their families and carers.

DisabledGo is unique in sending a surveyor to visit every location featured on their web site. Surveyors use the same standards to assess each venue, meaning users can trust the information. In addition to their full time survey team DisabledGo recruited and trained 3 local Dundee people with a disability as surveyors.

Having easy access to information you can trust empowers disabled people, their families and carers in making informed decisions about where they want to go and what they want to do.

**DisabledGo's on-line Dundee Access Guide is being launched by the Lord Provost John Letford on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

[www.disabledgo.com](http://www.disabledgo.com)



## Holocaust Memorial Day

Dundee City is hosting the Scottish 2012 Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2012. This annual day of remembrance is held in honour of all those lives that have been lost or blighted by the Holocaust and by the genocide in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

The theme for 2012 is **'Speak Up, Speak Out to create a safer, better future'** it asks us to think about the rights, responsibility and the duty we all have to speak up when we see or hear something which we believe to be wrong. It challenges us to learn about what happens when we don't speak out and what can happen when we do use our voice.



Dundee City Council was delighted to be invited to host the National Holocaust Memorial Day in Scotland, working in partnership with *The Scottish Inter Faith Council*, *The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust*, *The Anne Frank Trust* and *The Scottish Government*.

The preparatory work for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2012 begun with hundreds of school children in Dundee viewing the Award Winning Holocaust Film *'Inside Hana's Suitcase'* and/or reading the accompanying book.

The highlights of the 2012 events include a civic reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Dundee. 2000 primary school children attended a special morning memorial event in the Caird Hall. That evening a 70 voice cross-school choir and 14 dancers with disabilities performed in front of an audience of 200 invited guests and 700 Dundee secondary students in the Caird Hall.

Guest speakers included *Rabbi Melchior*, an international peace activist from Denmark, the cast and director of the film *'Inside Hana's Suitcase'* and holocaust survivor and brother of Hana, *George Brady*.

## Equality and Diversity Grants

Dundee City Council Equality and Diversity Grants are intended to support projects, programmes and/or community events that promote positive action, equality of opportunity and foster good relations across communities. Voluntary or community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives etc that are active in the City of Dundee can apply for Equality and Diversity Grants.

Grants are normally in the region of £500–£1000, however larger individual grants may be considered. Grants are not intended to provide long-term funding but are a resource which community groups can apply to for help in funding projects, programmes or community events that support Dundee City Council's general equality duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not



## Some examples of how Equality and Diversity Grants have been used:

- A grant of £1000 toward the costs of a 2-day Scottish Dance Theatre Symposium in Dundee aimed at supporting and encouraging young disabled people enter the performing arts as a career.
- A grant of £332 to the Kirkton Community Partnership to fund a guide /communicator to support a deaf and blind residents participation in Deaf Blind Scotland's Community Planning Project in Kirkton.
- A grant of £584 to Dundee International Women's Centre to part fund a series of events aimed at supporting isolated women from the city's ethnic minorities. This will allow them to participate in cultural and social activities based around the Eid festival.
- A grant of £489 to Deaf Links to support Deaf Awareness Training programs.
- A grant of £500 to support Dundee Voluntary Action's (DVA) Dundee Women's Festival.
- A grant of £900 to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth Scotland to support Dundee Allsorts Youth Group and to facilitate a young Dundee person to become a member and attend the meetings of the LGBT Youth Council.

To apply for Equality and Diversity Funding contact Scott Mands, Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator Telephone 01382 307482, Fax 01382 307487 or e-mail [scott.mands@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:scott.mands@dundeecity.gov.uk)

## Events

### Dundee Equality and Diversity Partnership

In August 2009 Dundee City Council's hosted the Discovering Equality in Dundee event in the West Park Conference Centre.

The event brought together community organisations from across the city to inform the priorities for the Council's Single Equality Scheme and develop sustained community engagement informing the delivery of the Single Equality Scheme.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 Dundee Equality and Diversity Partnership will be hosting an Equality and Diversity event at the West Park Conference Centre

April's event will bring together Dundee City Council, Tayside Police, NHS, Fire and Rescue services, the voluntary sector and organisations and individuals representing and/or working with protected characteristic communities in the city.

The aim is to build upon the good work that came from the '**Discovering Equality in Dundee**' event, develop new and enhance existing dialogue between communities and agencies and develop key equality objectives for the City.

