

# FIFE WIDE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 - July 2025

## Why are we developing a Forum?

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership and members of the Integration Joint Board want to build good relationships with the public and people who are using public health and social care services so we can work together to shape services in Fife for the future.

We need to understand what it feels like for people who use our services, so it is important that people who have lived experience, including carers and local communities, are involved in the planning, design and delivery of health and social care services in Fife.

During a consultation with people in Fife, they told us that they wanted a platform where they could share their opinions on health and social care services, which has resulted in the creation of the forum.

Information about the forum and getting involved with Fife Health and Social Care Partnership can be found online at [www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/getinvolved](http://www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/getinvolved) or by using the link below:

CLICK HERE



## The role of the members of the Forum.

We want forum members to play an active role in shaping how we support people's health and well-being in Fife. This could include sharing ideas and experiences to help us develop strategies that reflect what the public needs, working with us to co-produce projects that make a real difference, and giving feedback on surveys or helping to design questionnaires so we ask the right questions.

We also need help ensuring we reach those who need support the most, by contributing to plans that make sure no one is left out - this is sometimes called an Equality and Quality Impact Assessment (EQIA). Your input will help us create fair, effective, solutions that involve and support the health and wellbeing of communities in Fife.

## We want forum members to:

- Share their views and ideas to help Fife Health and Social Care Partnership understand what's important to people in Fife.
- Have access to opportunities and support to develop their knowledge about the decision-making processes used by health and social care.
- Take an active role in the growth and development of the forum by chairing meetings and helping to set the agenda.
- Come along to up to 4 meetings a year.
- Promote membership of the forum by telling friends and family about the work they're doing.

A member of the forum will serve as the Public Representative on the Integration Joint Board.



## **Sharon Breeze**

### Participation and Engagement Officer

As a member of staff within the Participation and Engagement Team, my role focuses on ensuring that the public voice is captured and heard across a range of projects for the Health and Social Care Partnership.

I am currently involved in the development of the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum and it has been exciting to see the members come together at our recent meetings and prepare to get involved with the work of the Partnership.

Our first two meetings have really focused on providing some background to the development of the forum and sharing information about the Health and Social Care Partnership, the Integration Joint Board and the delegated services that are in scope for the forum. I'm now looking forward to getting started on some real engagement work with the members who are keen to share their views, their stories and help to shape services for the future.



## **Roy Lawrence**

### Principal Lead for Organisational Development and Culture

A huge thank you to everyone who has got involved in our Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum so far. Our last meeting was a fantastic opportunity for the people of Fife who attended to tell us in the Health & Social Care Partnership what matters to them. It was great to sit and listen to people who care about health and social care in Fife talk about their experiences.

We want to work with you as citizens of Fife and your communities, so we can support the people of Fife to live healthy, independent lives. That means that we need to understand what it feels like for people who use our services and what challenges they face when using them.

We are committed to finding ways to make sure that the people of Fife can speak to us in the Partnership in ways that work for them, including by being part of our Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum where we are working to build relationships between the public, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership and the Integration Joint Board (IJB), who oversee the work of the Partnership.

Please come along to our next meeting and tell us your thoughts, ideas and experiences of health and social care in Fife, to help us keep improving the services we provide. Being a member of the Forum will give you, your family and your community a voice in decisions that directly impact your health and well-being.

I am excited to see the Forum grow and develop for the future to help us to deliver services that continue to respond to your needs, even as those needs change throughout your life in Fife. Please take the time to come along and have your voice heard to help us be the best Health & Social Care Partnership we can be!



**Ken Fraser**  
Forum Member

Since December 2021 I have experienced 4 life threatening illnesses, on the whole I received very good care; although there were certain areas of my healthcare that could have been better.

Fortunately for me, I was signposted by my Oncologist to the Maggie's Centre where I received excellent support for some of the non-clinical aspects of my cancer diagnosis and treatment. I am very grateful that the centre was there at a time I needed it most. I am conscious people with other health conditions don't always have a place like Maggie's to attend. I am passionate the same is made available for other health conditions. I know that this is an area that Fife Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) can support with; in helping our awareness of such and engage with the services (some are self-referral) that are available.

When I heard about the development of the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum, I had high hopes it was an opportunity for me to get involved and give something back to the health service that is providing my care. I felt that I could use my own experience to help with improvements (from a patients' perspective) but in a positive and constructive way.

Since joining the forum it's been clear that Fife HSCP want to hear from people living in Fife. They do want to understand the patient experience. There are many wonderful members of staff involved and for me, they're doing a good job; but where there is opportunity for improvement, I feel that the public can (and should) be involved.

I will continue to need healthcare in the future, so I have a vested interest in being involved, for no reason other than making a difference. I would encourage others to come forward and do the same; to become Champions within their own community. We do need to take responsibility for our healthcare and play a bigger part in defining the services needed most.

I firmly believe that this public forum has the potential to be a success for the benefit of us all!

People who are affected by cancer can get support from the Maggie's Centre by calling **01592 647997** or by visiting the website: [www.maggies.org](http://www.maggies.org)

Support is also available from the Improving Cancer Journey Service by calling **03451 551500**, by email at [improving.cancerjourney@fife.gov.uk](mailto:improving.cancerjourney@fife.gov.uk) and you can find out more by visiting the website: [www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/ICJ](http://www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/ICJ)







**Suzanne Morley**  
Forum Member

I spent 2 years as a Lived Experience Group member with the Pain Medicine Patient Safety Programme and during time I was involved in work which led to improvements being made to information available to patients and a new resource hub, Pain Talking, being developed. The Lived Experience Group contributed a lot of material for the resource hub and I'm really proud of the work we did.

I live with multiple health conditions, including chronic pain, and I know that getting involved with the pain medicine programme and the forum isn't about pursuing my own personal agenda and fixing my situation but more about using my experiences and voice to speak up for others in similar situations and help to improve care for the future.

I was keen to join the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum because I know when people who use services get involved, it really can make a difference to everyone. I've been unable to work because of my health and doing this gives me a sense of self worth and lets me give something back that benefits communities and the organisations working in them. My son doesn't remember a time when I worked so I know it's been positive for him to see the contributions I'm making now. The forum holds meetings in person and online, and it's been helpful to have that flexibility, particularly for times when I don't feel well enough to travel.

I recently met with the Scottish Government to talk about the work of the Pain Medicine Programme, and I was on tv so the programme has had high level interest. I will also be working with St Andrews University on a new medical degree course which will support the training of new doctors, mainly GPs, and this is something else that I feel passionate about.

I'm looking forward to seeing the public forum develop, I know that these things take time but I want to be involved and I would encourage other people to come along to one of the meetings and see for themselves.

People who are living with pain conditions can find useful information and support by visiting NHS Fife's website: [www.nhsfife.org/pain-talking](http://www.nhsfife.org/pain-talking). Suzie's story forms part of the website and the Lived Experience Group co-produced the information contained there.



**Pain talking**



## Michael and David Forum Members - People First (Scotland)

Two of the Directors of People First (Scotland) have been involved in the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum since its very beginning.

The Forum is a great place to make sure your voice is heard and to meet with other people across Fife to talk about important issues in Fife which affect everyone.

Michael and David from People First (Scotland) say that the Forum is good because you can talk about what's happening and different issues that are important to people. We get to meet with other people and discuss in smaller groups some of the bigger issues that we face in Fife. You can express your opinion and feel like you are influencing change and making things better for everyone.

The Forum is also a good place for networking, meeting people from other organisations and meeting people who make the decisions about funding in Fife.

We would like to encourage more members of the public to attend the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum to have more of an impact. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a change and have your voice heard. David says that 'people need to get involved if they want to make change happen in their communities'

People First (Scotland) is a Collective Advocacy organisation for people with a learning disability. We think it is important that we are represented in places like the Forum to make sure people with a learning disability aren't forgotten. If you want to get involved with our organisation get in touch with Katie on: [Katie.cook@peoplefirstscotland.org](mailto:Katie.cook@peoplefirstscotland.org)

