

FIFE WIDE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 - September 2026

Welcome to our September 2026 Newsletter for the Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum.



It's amazing to think that nearly 2 years have passed since the very first Forum meeting.

As we move into the autumn, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Forum members for your continued commitment and involvement. The time, experience and insights you bring help ensure that the voices of people across Fife are heard in the planning and delivery of health and social care services.

Over the last 2 years, it has been encouraging to see that Forum members have contributed to a wide range of consultations and engagement activities, helping us better understand what matters most to local people and communities.

I am pleased to see that recent efforts have attracted some new members to the Forum. A strong and diverse membership helps ensure we hear from people with different experiences and perspectives from across Fife and makes conversations richer in the meetings. To those who have recently joined, thank you for getting involved. We look forward to welcoming you and hearing your views.

The success of the Forum depends on the willingness of people to share their time, experiences and opinions. Whether you have been a member since the first meeting in October 2024 or have only recently become involved, your contribution matters and is genuinely valued.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Forum. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you as we strengthen the Forum, welcome new members and ensure that the voices of people across Fife help shape health and social care services for the future.

Roy Lawrence, Head of Culture, Engagement & Communities

A Message from the Participation and Engagement Officer

Over the summer, we have been spreading the word about the Forum through community events, local groups and social media. We met people at a range of events across Fife, including Fife Forum Action Groups, Men's Sheds, Fife Centre for Equalities Summer Gathering and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust Health and Wellbeing Classes.

We are delighted that this has led to lots of enquiries and several new members joining the Forum and we look forward to welcoming them to our meetings.

Thank you to members for helping us to promote the Forum. Your support is helping us reach more people and build a Forum that reflects communities across Fife.

To keep up to date, you can check out our dedicated page on the website: www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/FWPF

Sharon Breeze, Participation and Engagement Officer





Showing the Difference You Make

Many members have told us they would like to hear more about the impact of their involvement in the Forum. To help with this, we have produced a report highlighting how members have influenced and shaped different areas of work.

Copies will be shared at our in-person meeting and sent electronically to all members. We know that members give their time, experience and commitment to the Forum, and we want to make sure you can see the difference your contributions are making in helping to shape services and make sure the voices of people across Fife are heard.

Keeping Up to Date

We have been updating the Get Involved pages on our website to make it easier for people to find out about the Forum and learn about current consultations and engagement opportunities.

We encourage members to check the website regularly to see if there are any consultations they would like to get involved in. If you are part of a local group and think others would be interested, we would also be happy to come along and deliver a face-to-face engagement session.



Meet the Members - Steve Callaghan

My main career was in Museums and Heritage, which led on to a later period in management consulting. I also did some work with a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Project and, when I retired, I joined the board. I was involved for 10 years and served as Chair for 3 of those years.

Being involved with that charity made me realise that society needs to do more for people with drug and alcohol problems, and that support is often about therapy as much as medication.

After I retired, my wife suggested I join the local Men's Shed to get out and have some fun. I originally intended to be just a member, but after joining I became Chair of the Dunfermline Men's Shed, a role I have now held for nearly three years.

The Men's Shed is largely men talking to other men about men's stuff. We laugh, drink tea and tell bad jokes. Around a third of our members take part in community woodworking projects, while others come along for the company, social trips or mindfulness activities. There are lots of different ways to get involved. I have seen how being part of the shed can improve men's health and wellbeing by helping them stay connected, make friends and feel part of their community.

I joined the Forum because, as I get older, I want to have a say in making sure health and social care services are good, not only for me and my family, but also for the men attending the shed and for the wider community. The future of health and social care services matters to people, and I am keen to understand what is available in Fife, particularly for older people and those affected by alcohol and drug issues.

When I first considered joining the Forum, I wanted to know that it had real influence and was not just a talking shop where nothing changes. I am happy to be involved because I feel it is worthwhile, and I feel positive about the future of the Forum.

I grew up in South America and the West Indies, and during my working life I lived in many different places around the UK. After 38 years in Scotland, I have settled in Fife and feel it is a good place to grow older compared with many other parts of the country.



Our Summer 2026 Meetings

Your Voice Matters – Tracy Harley, Service Manager

Tracy gave a presentation at the in-person meeting outlining the importance of the public voice in health and social care and how Forum members can provide valuable insight that data alone cannot. Forum members had asked for information about what issues could be raised at the Forum and we said:

"Bring what matters to you, your family or your community. The Forum will help identify common themes, opportunities for improvement and ways your experiences can help influence health and social care services."

Preventative Care Services – Shelley McBain, Service Manager

Shelley came along to both meetings to give an update on planned investment in Primary Care Services and to answer questions. Members welcomed the information that was shared at the meetings and were able to ask questions and raise issues they had experienced.



Co-ordinated Support in Dunfermline Locality

Ashley Paul, Locality Development Officer, delivered a presentation on co-ordinated support within localities and asked for views on options that were being considered by the Locality Group. This generated good discussion and feedback from Forum members.

The Dunfermline Locality Group have considered the feedback, and a report has been shared with the members showing how their contributions have influenced Locality Planning.

We are looking for people to join!

We are looking for new members to join The Fife Wide Public Engagement Forum. If you are passionate about contributing your ideas, sharing your knowledge and helping the people of Fife to live healthy independent lives we would like to hear from you.

Information about the Forum and getting involved with Fife Health and Social Care Partnership can be found online at:

www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/getinvolved

CLICK HERE