Diversity Week Fife 2015
7 to 13 September
Summary Report

Introduction

The main purpose of the Diversity Week is to work together with partners from the private, public and voluntary sectors to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of life in Fife. Fife Centre for Equalities (FCE) is delighted with the success of the Diversity Week Fife 2015, being its first year to coordinate the programme.

Diversity Week Fife aims to promote mutual appreciation and inclusiveness by highlighting and showcasing the many and varied communities and social interests in the region. This year’s programme has certainly demonstrated the richness of Fife in terms of diversity and the cultures Fife has to offer.

Equality and diversity in Fife - key facts:

- Fife’s overall population (365,000) is growing and becoming more diverse in terms of age, disability, gender, marital status, race, religion/belief and sexual orientation.
- The number of children under 5 as well as those who are over 65 is growing.
- 52% of Fifers are female and 48% are male.
- Religions practiced in Fife include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.
- 20% of Fifers have a long-term health problem or a disability.
- Fife’s population is made up of people from at least 55 countries of birth and from all continents.
- 10% of Fife’s population is estimated to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender.
- The number of single Fifers has gone up to 31.6% whilst the married population has gone down to 48%. 0.2% of Fife’s population are in a civil partnership.

Participation

Twelve events were held with at least one per day over the course of the week. The programme included a conference, activity days, information sessions and musical gatherings. More than 80 people and organisations contributed to the events, and approximately 2000 people attended overall. We had strong support from local media and elected members, and from the voluntary, public and private sectors at every level.
Highlights

Monday 7

Inclusive Communication Conference, 9.30am to 4.30pm
Lochgelly Centre, Bank Street, Lochgelly KY5 9RD
Organiser: Fife Centre for Equalities

This conference chaired by Kenny Murphy, Fife Voluntary Action’s Chief Executive, aimed to showcase best practice in meeting different communication needs. The speakers included Marco Biagi MSP, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment; Andy Kerr, Chief Executive of Sense Scotland; Lisa Cathro, Owner of Zest Café St Andrews and Chief Inspector Steven Hamilton, Area Commander for Fife Central of Police Scotland.

125 people from a wide range of organisations attended this conference. The overall assessment of the conference was that 68% said it was very good, 32% said it was good and 2% did not answer.

“This was a fantastic event, thoroughly enjoyed, especially the laughter workshop. Workshops a tad short.”
“Workshops could have been longer as you wanted to stay and receive more information or ask questions. Wasn’t enough seating for lunch as the majority of people were left standing. Overall the day was very informative and gave a lot of good information.”

“Delegate list was great. Laughter yoga was brilliant energiser post lunch. Drama was great.”

“Many congratulations to all of you. I felt so well supported and completely included, listened to and valued.”
Tuesday 8

**Penumbra Self Harm Discussion and Q&A, 10.30am to 11am**  
**Penumbra, 89 New Row, Dunfermline KY12 7DZ**  
Organiser: Penumbra

Penumbra hosted a discussion and Q&A session with access to materials on self-harm and related issues as well as information on available support.

**Women's Health Event, 12noon to 3pm**  
**Levenmouth Swimming Pool & Sports Centre, Promenade, Leven KY8 4PA**  
Organiser: Fife Centre for Equalities

Fife Centre for Equalities, in partnership with Fife Leisure and NHS Fife, hosted an activity taster session for women in Fife. Participants were able to take part in aqua aerobics and Pilates. They also enjoyed a free health check offered by the Keep Well team and received practical information from stall holders.
Wednesday 9

**Fife Carers Centre Coffee Morning, 10am to 12noon**
Fife Carers Centre, 157 Commercial Street, Kirkcaldy KY1 2NS
Organiser: Fife Carers Centre

Fife Carers Centre hosted an open event for the whole community to visit the centre and find out more about the organisation and their staff.

**Paxton Coffee Break, 11am to 4pm**
Forthview Café, 14a Links Road, Lundin Links KY8 6AT
Organiser: Homelands Trust Fife

Participants enjoyed free tea, coffee, biscuits and a tour of Paxton’s facilities. Participants were also offered Indian Head Massage and Reiki for a donation.

**Disabilities Fife Network Meeting, 2pm to 4pm**
New Volunteer House, 16 East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy KY1 1XT
Organiser: Disabilities Fife

Disabilities Fife held a Network Meeting during Diversity Week to enable persons with disabilities to learn more about the progress of Health and Social Care Integration in Fife.

Speakers included:
Fiona Mackenzie and Heather Ford, Health and Social Care Integration Change Managers
George Cuthill, Scottish Health Council
Alastair Robertson, NHS Fife Community Ambassador
Thursday 10

**NHS Fife Open Day, 10am to 4pm**  
**Victoria Hospital, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5AH**  
Organiser: NHS Fife

Information stalls were set up by Equality and Human Rights Department and partner agencies at the reception area of Victoria Hospital. ‘What a Voice’ exhibition was also on display.

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Friday 11

**Friday Busk, 1pm to 3pm**  
**Dunfermline High St, Dunfermline KY12 7DR**  
Organiser: Fife Centre for Equalities

A local busker Nic Cheyne joined us at Dunfermline High Street to promote Diversity Week and the work of FCE.
Saturday 12

Hijab Styling and Islamic Art, 12noon to 2pm
Kirkcaldy Islamic Centre, 1 St Marys Road, Kirkcaldy
Organiser: Jewels of Islam

Women of all ethnicities and faith enjoyed a come and try session of Hijab Styling and Islamic Art. Homemade samosas and pakoras were served with tea or coffee.

Try Interfaith
Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, Dunfermline
Organiser: Fife Interfaith Group

A panel of four faiths represented by Daryl Watson, Latterday Saints; Samarah Haq, Muslims; Behdokht Eliasieh, Baha’i; and Colm Wilson, Quakers. Each panel member gave a five-minute talk about their faith and beliefs followed by a very lively question and answer session.
Fèill Fiobha (Festival of Fife), 12noon to 4pm
Lomond Centre, Woodside Way Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5RA
Organiser: Fife Council

This Gaelic festival was especially held to celebrate traditional Scottish cultures with a family fun day including language and activity taster sessions.

“I enjoyed it immensely; it’s great to hear and see more Gaelic! It’s really great there’s some Gaelic in Fife. Many thanks for today.”
**Ceilidh, 6pm to 10pm**  
**Lomond Centre, Woodside Way Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5RA**  
Organiser: Fife Council

An evening of dancing to promote and celebrate Gaelic language and culture in Fife during Diversity Week Fife.

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Sunday 13

**Diversity Gala, 11am to 4pm**  
**Kingsgate Shopping Centre, Dunfermline KY12 7QU**  
Organiser: Fife Centre for Equalities

A finale bringing together local performers and entertainers to display the diverse talents in Fife as well as to celebrate a successful week.

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“The event was fun, and showed a good range of activities, communities etc. Nice varied entertainment and a neat compact area to set up in.”
Big thank you to everyone who helped us to make Diversity Week Fife 2015 a success!

Planning Partners
Fife College Student Association
Fife Council
Fife Cultural Trust
Police Scotland
NHS Fife

Contributors
$eyeDimensions
Afasic Scotland
Auricles of Leslie
Balbirnie Candles
Balmalcolm
Clydesdales
Bead-Dazzled
Jewellery
Carleton Primary
Celtic Creations
Choose Life Fife
Circles Network
Advocacy in Fife
Citizens Advice and Rights Fife
Citizens Advice Rights Fife
Creative cards & cuddles
Deaf Communication Service
Disabilities Fife
Dundee Gaelic Choir
Dunfermline Advocacy
Elmwood College
ERACE Consultancy
FAACT
Fife Carers Centre
Fife Chinese Cultural Society
Fife College
Fife Council
Fife Craft Association
Fife Cultural Trust
Fife Interfaith Group
Fife Man and Van
Fife Society for the Blind
Fife Sports and Leisure Trust
Fife Voluntary Action
Fordell Firs Scout HQ
Gaelic Tutor Dàibhidh
Grannd
Hamaira Ali - Exquisitely Beautiful
Heart and Sound
Heavenly Gifts
Henry’s Handicrafts
Home Energy Scotland
Homelands Trust Fife
Homeshare Scotland
HotScotch Ceilidh Band
Jamie Ann Zamlyne
Jewels of Islam
JJ KrAfts
Kenny’s Music
Dunfermline
Kingsgate Shopping Centre
Kirkcaldy Community Radio
Lionspirit Music
Lochgelly Centre
Luckie Ales
Margaret Gardener
Methilhill Community Pipe Band
Marco Biagi MSP
NHS Fife
NoWhere City
Olly Bobbins
Penumbra - Self Harm Project
Police Scotland
Ravenstonz
Royal British Legion Dunfermline
RubyRain
Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF)
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Scottish Government
Scottish Scout Association
Scottish Transgender Alliance
Sense Scotland
Stewarding 91st Scouts
Story Teller James
MacDonald Reid
Suit and Pace
The Friary Community Garden (Inverkeithing)
The Oran Project
Tracys Scarves
Weaver Dominique Robertson
Wendy Cook
Wendys Bowtique
William Anderson
Wounderful Wooden Wishes
Zest Café St Andrews
Gordon Agnew
Alan Boyle
Brenda Holliday
Sarah Letham
Alexis Porter
Aiveen Ryan
William Sloan
Ryan Stewart
Annie Van Der Kooij