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. 2015’s programme 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.

- Valuable: 77%
- Informative: 81%
- Interesting: 81%
- Inspiring: 60%
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 and 32% said it was good.

“This was a fantastic event, thoroughly enjoyed, especially the laughter workshop . . .

“Workshops could have been longer as you wanted to stay and receive more information or ask questions . . . very informative and gave a lot of good information.”
“I felt so well supported and completely included, listened to and valued.”
**Tuesday 8**

**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 NHS Fife Equality and Human Rights Department and partner agencies at the reception area of Victoria Hospital. ‘What a Voice’ exhibition was also on display.

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.

**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.
“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.”
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.
“The event was fun, and showed a good range of activities, communities etc.”

“Nice varied entertainment . . .”
A big **thank you** to everyone who helped us to make Diversity Week Fife 2015 a success!
Planning Partners

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

Contributors

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

Contributors

Gordon Agnew  Ailis Porter  Alexis Porter
Aiveen Ryan  William Sloan  Ryan Stewart
Annie Van Der Kooij
Diversity Week Fife 2015 Report was prepared and produced by Fife Centre for Equalities