



EDINBURGH TENANTS  
FEDERATION

# Federation Matters

## October 2017

### We're Hiring!

ETF is hiring! We have a vacancy for a part-time temporary Outreach Worker post for a year. This role is an exciting opportunity to lead in providing development support to existing tenants' and residents' groups and to provide training opportunities to support groups to flourish. For more information or an information pack, check out the Federation's website at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk), contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

### Baring Funding Success

We're delighted to announce a successful funding bid from the Baring Foundation for a part-time Housing Rights Development Worker for a year. This post will develop our housing rights in practice project in partnership with Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR) and the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). Justine Bradd, our current Outreach Worker will be leading this work and will focus on supporting tenants to use a rights based approach to address their housing issues.

### **Social Security in Scotland, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 4.00pm-8.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road**

We are hosting two sessions for tenants and residents in Edinburgh about social security in Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government.

#### **4.00pm-6.00pm Information session about the Social Security (Scotland) Bill**

The Social Security (Scotland) Bill sets out the new social security powers which have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament. This session will explain the key parts of the Bill.

#### **6.30pm-8.30pm Dignity and respect in social security in Scotland**

The new social security system in Scotland will have dignity and respect at its heart. Find out from the Scottish Government team responsible for setting up the new Social Security Agency what this might mean in practice and get involved in designing what this might look and feel like for you.

A light buffet will be available at 6pm. If you would like more information or to book a place, contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or book online at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk).

### **Federation Meeting with the Housing and Economy Committee; Wednesday 25th October 2017, 7pm-9pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.**

Our next Federation Meeting is an informal roundtable event bringing together:

- Councillors on the Housing and Economy Committee for the City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh Tenants Federation Members
- Members of Council Registered Tenant Organisations (RTOs)
- Individual tenants.

This is a golden opportunity to talk directly to elected members about the issues that are important to tenants, Federation Members and tenants' and residents' groups. Cllr Gavin Barrie, Convenor of the Housing and Economy Committee and Cllr Lezley Marion Cameron, Vice Convenor, as well as other Members of the Committee have confirmed their involvement. If you would like more information or to book a place, contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or book online at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk).

### **Tenants Voice: Call for Articles**

All groups should shortly receive a copy of the latest edition of *Tenants Voice*. If you would like extra copies, please contact the Federation office. The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**, so if there's anything you'd like to say, please speak up! Articles and letters for publication should be sent into the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Alternatively, give the Federation office a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

### **City of Edinburgh Council Tenants' Conference, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 9.30am-2.00pm, Waverley Court 4 East Market Street**

Council tenants are invited to the City of Edinburgh Council Tenants' Conference. Find out more about Council housing services and take part in a range of informal activities to have your say on future approaches. This is an ideal opportunity to meet tenants from other areas and get to know some of your Housing Officers. If you would like to find out more, or book a place please phone 0131 529 7545 or email [tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk).

### **Bin and Recycling Survey**

Changeworks are carrying out research to improve the communal bin service. Take part online at <https://t.co/ufqllAMrAZ> with a chance to **WIN** cinema tickets, pizza vouchers or a trip to Camera Obscura. You can also take part over the phone by contacting Changeworks at **0131 555 4010**. The deadline for responses is **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**.

### **City of Edinburgh Council Budget Consultation**

The City of Edinburgh Council is currently carrying out a budget consultation. This is open for Council tenants to tell the Council the best ways they can invest rent to help tenants save money. The consultation is open until **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017** and tenants can have their say in a number of ways:

- Online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tenantsaving](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tenantsaving);
- By email at [housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk);
- By phone on 0131 529 7232;
- By picking up a FREEPOST card from your local Housing Officer, office or library.

### **Federation Meeting, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 7pm-9pm, the Melting Pot, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh**

All are welcome to the November Federation meeting where you'll hear about the views raised in the Council's recent Rent Consultation and debate some of the issues in more detail. Members will also have the chance to hear what work ETF has been involved in the past few months as we discuss our quarterly Progress Report. If you would like to book a place, contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or book online at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk).

## Scottish Government Consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes

The Scottish Government has recently launched a consultation seeking views on possible changes to standards required for fire and smoke alarms in Scottish homes. The Scottish Government propose extending the current minimum safety standards for private rented housing to all other tenures. A copy of the consultation can be downloaded at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/8183/downloads>. Alternatively you can phone 0131 244 0781 if you would like more information. The closing date for responses is **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**.

## Sleep in the Park, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Princes Street, Gardens

The "world's largest ever sleepout event" has been billed as a Live Aid for Scottish homelessness. The event is being organised by Josh Littlejohn, co-founder of Social Bite, which helps the homeless through cafes, a restaurant and fundraising events. ETF would like to get a team together for Sleep in the Park. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Justine on 0131 475 2509 or email [justine@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:justine@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

### Diary Dates

**Here are the dates of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.**

#### **October 2017**

10 October	Social Security in Scotland, 4.00pm-8.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road
23 October	Deadline for Bin and Recycling Survey
25 October	Federation Meeting with Housing and Economy Committee, 7pm-9pm in Edinburgh City Chambers, High Street.
28 October	City of Edinburgh Council Tenants' Conference, 9.30am-2.00pm, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street
30 October	Deadline for <i>Tenants Voice</i> articles
31 October	Deadline for Council Rent Consultation

#### **November 2017**

13 November	Federation Meeting, 7pm-9pm, the Melting Pot, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh
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#### **December 2017**

1 December	Deadline for Scottish Government Consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms
9 December	Sleep In the Park, Princes Street Gardens

Please use public transport where possible. If required, assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information.

Don't forget that Federation Matters and other Federation publications, can be downloaded from our website at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). That's all for this month – do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.