



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters March 2017

ETF Learning Session: Getting Your Message Across, Wednesday 29th March 2017, 5.15pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Would you like to learn about how to tell your group's story, including how to write a press release or article? ETF is holding a half-day learning session on **Wednesday 29th March 2017, 5.15pm-9.00pm, venue to be confirmed**. The learning session will look at:

- How to use social media;
- Picking up good practice on producing press releases and newsletters.

For bookings contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or book online at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. Housing Association tenants are required to pay a nominal fee, please contact your landlord before booking a place. **Places must be booked in advance.**

ETF Blog

ETF's blog this month comes from Mike Vallance, Secretary, Tenants and Residents in Fidra Court (TRIFiC) who will tell us about some of their brilliant work, including their community kitchen, giving access to computers and printing facilities, their small free library/bookshop and free shop of household items and toys. You can read Mike's blog at

<http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/category/guest-bloggers/>. In our last edition, Marie Duguid, Business Development Officer, Social Enterprise Academy focussed on our community leadership programme. You can read Marie's blog here

<http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/learning-to-lead-creating-community-impact/>. If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

Tenants Voice: Call for Articles

All groups will shortly be receiving 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 11th April 2017**, so if there's anything you'd like to say, please speak up! Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to 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.

ETF Learning Session: Balancing the Books, Saturday 22nd April 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, venue to be confirmed

Are you terrified of finance or just not sure how to keep your group's accounts? ETF is holding a one day learning session on **Saturday 22nd April 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, venue to be confirmed**. The learning session will look at:

- Good record keeping;
- How to lay out your group's financial statements.

It's not just for Treasurers though – it's everyone's responsibility to know about their group's finance, so come along and take the plunge. (Lunch will be provided at this session). For bookings contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or book online at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. Housing Association tenants are required to pay a nominal fee, please contact your landlord before booking a place. **Places must be booked in advance.**

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

 0131 475 2509  info@edinburghtenants.org.uk  www.edinburghtenants.org.uk

Your Executive Committee Needs You!

Are you looking for an exciting new challenge or would like to meet people from different backgrounds? If so, then why not apply to join the Federation's Executive Committee (EC). The EC is elected at the Federation's AGM in June and anyone who is nominated by one of our member groups is eligible. The EC meet monthly and are involved in decision making on behalf of Federation Members and represent the views of tenants when considering housing policies and services. There is a 'buddying' system, where new members can work with more experienced members and staff are always on hand to assist. For more information, contact Clare MacGillivray on 0131 475 2509 or email clare@edinburghtenants.org.uk. If you are interested, firstly speak to your association, because they need to support your application. Your association needs to complete, sign and return a nomination form and supporting statement by **Friday 2nd June 2017**. Forms will be sent out in due course.

Consultation on Universal Credit (Claims and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

The Scottish Government is currently consulting about how Universal Credit (UC) will be paid in the future. The Consultation is proposing two possibilities for claimants:

- Having the option of being paid UC twice a month rather than monthly and;
- Having the option of any UC housing element being paid direct to landlords.

ETF wants to hear your views, so we can present our members' opinions to the Scottish Government. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SKSXXF3>. The survey should take around five minutes to complete and we would be grateful if you could complete it by **Friday 10th March 2016**. If you wish to complete a paper copy of the questionnaire, contact Mark at the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk. The following link provides more information on Universal Credit (UC):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-toolkit-for-partner-organisations>.

EVOC SCIO Workshop, Wednesday 15th March 2017, 6.00pm-8.00pm, EVOC Offices, 14 Ashley Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PX

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) will be holding a workshop about SCIOs (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations). The workshop will take place on **Wednesday 15th March 2017, 6.00pm-8.00pm, EVOC Offices, 14 Ashley Place** and will focus on why it is widely becoming the charity of choice for organisations. The workshop will look at how to form a new SCIO or converting your existing organisation into a SCIO. The workshop is aimed at both staff and charity trustees and will be helpful for ETF Members keen to learn more about how organisations become a SCIO. If you would like to book a place please phone 0131 555 9100 or email info@evoc.org.uk. **Places must be booked in advance.**

Inspiring Volunteering Achievement Awards 2017

Do you know someone within your organisation who deserve an Inspiring Volunteering Achievement Award? Nominations are now invited for this year's awards, and can be submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MGSGHCK>. Organisations are welcome to nominate up to **three individual volunteers** and **one team of volunteers**. Don't forget that there is also an award for Housing/Tenant Participation Champion. Edinburgh's Volunteering Ambassador the Lord Provost, Donald Wilson will honour some of the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy and commitment to the people of Edinburgh at a special awards ceremony to take place on **Wednesday 7th June 2017 at The City Chambers**. Nominations will close on **Monday 27th March 2017 at 10.00pm**. For more information please contact Lara Celini or Tyler Norrie, Volunteer Centre Edinburgh on 0131 225 0630 or email events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

Diary Dates

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

March 2017

- 15 March EVOC SCIO Workshop, 6.00pm-8.00pm, EVOC Offices, 14 Ashley Place.
Places must be booked in advance
- 27 March Deadline for nominations for Inspiring Volunteer Achievement Awards 2017
- 29 March Getting Your Message Across Learning Session, 5.15pm-9.00pm,
Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road **Places must be booked in advance**

April 2017

- 10 April **Public holiday – Office closed**
- 11 April Deadline for *Tenants Voice* articles
- 14 April **Public holiday – Office closed**
- 17 April **Public holiday – Office closed**
- 22 April Balancing the Books Learning Session, 9.30am-3.30pm, venue to be confirmed. **Places must be booked in advance**

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 or to book a place.