



Equal Futures



In the Loop



## **Edition 6 - May 2022**

### **Update from Jayne - Managing Director**

Hello one and all and welcome to our May newsletter. What a beautiful dry spell we've had lately. I hope you've been out and about enjoying Springtime.

A lot has happened at Equal Futures since my last update. Our lovely Kelly Malyan, Project Co-ordinator for Ayrshire, has moved on to an exciting new position in her hometown of Kilmarnock. We wish Kelly every success in her new appointment and thank her for everything she contributed to supporting individuals and families in Ayrshire.

We advertised the vacancy quickly and I am delighted to let you know that our very own Shona Fleming has been successful in her application to fill the position. She commenced on Monday 2 May. I know Shona is keen for a seamless transition for the people we support in Ayrshire and has already begun connecting with you. Shona will fulfil the Project Co-ordinator role on a part time basis alongside her original part time role as my Personal Assistant and I will review how things are going later in the year.

It was wonderful to see some of you at the Glasgow Kiltwalk fundraising event in April. It was a truly marvellous day and we had so much fun walking together and having a right

good blether. You can read all about it and see the photos on page 3.

We will have an increased focus on Fundraising activities throughout this year and beyond. Generating substantial income is necessary for our small charity to develop and grow and reach more people. To help us bring in more funding we have created the new Volunteering role of 'Volunteer Community Fundraiser'.

We hope to recruit a group of Community Fundraisers in each of the areas we currently work: Edinburgh; Glasgow; Ayrshire; Lanarkshire. It is our hope that each group will plan and deliver localised fundraising events such as Raffles, Auctions, Bag Packing, Coffee Mornings. They will also make connections with local businesses and clubs such as Rotary Clubs, Sports Clubs and Private Companies to talk about the difference we make to people's lives and ask them to partner our charity and raise funds for us. It would be an enormous help if you could tell your friends and family about this new Volunteer role and encourage them to apply. They'd be joining a wonderful team! The role advert and description can be found here:

[www.thera.co.uk/about/companies/equal-futures/support-us/volunteer-with-us/volunteer-community-fundraiser](http://www.thera.co.uk/about/companies/equal-futures/support-us/volunteer-with-us/volunteer-community-fundraiser)

To apply or find out more please get in touch with us at:  
Edinburgh & Lothians area:

[Jane.Mcallister@equalfutures.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Mcallister@equalfutures.org.uk)

Glasgow and North Lanarkshire area:

[Donna.McCallum@equalfutures.org.uk](mailto:Donna.McCallum@equalfutures.org.uk)

Ayrshire area:

[Shona.Fleming@equalfutures.org.uk](mailto:Shona.Fleming@equalfutures.org.uk)

Best wishes, Jayne

## Kiltwalk

Equal Futures attended the Glasgow Kiltwalk on Sunday 24th April at Loch Lomond Shores in Balloch. We set off on the Wee Wander route at 10am and finished around 12pm. There was 13 of us walking together and we definitely got lucky with the weather, it was a beautiful day and Balloch has some stunning scenery. It was lovely to see so many people out raising money for their chosen charity.

We would like to thank everyone that took part in the Kiltwalk and donated money to us! We have raised a massive £2902.50 which is wonderful! We are completely overwhelmed by everyone's generosity.

We also got the opportunity to meet Sir Tom Hunter who very generously tops up the funds raised by 50%.

It was a fantastic day and we hope to see you all there next year!



## Volunteer Story - Barry

My wife Shona has worked with Equal Futures for just over a year and has shared the stories of the great work the volunteers do. It was clear they were making a difference to people's lives, and I was very keen to get involved.

I applied for an event volunteer position and was delighted to be accepted. The first opportunity

for me to attend as a Volunteer was the Glasgow Kiltwalk on Sunday 24 April. I thoroughly enjoyed my day, it was a wonderful experience to meet the team, volunteers but more importantly the supported individuals. As a dog lover, It was great to have a chat with them to find out about their pets as well as interests and home life. I had a chat with Nicole and her mum Laura about their dogs and cats. I feel I have only scratched the surface of getting to know the supported individuals and I am very much looking forward to future events to get to know them all better.

Luckily the weather was on our side when we set off for the 3.5 mile walk around Loch Lomond and Balloch. The scenery was beautiful which made the walk so much easier. The highlight of my day was seeing the smiles on everyone's faces when they completed the Kiltwalk and were awarded medals.

I feel volunteering with Equal Futures will help me see the world in a different way and will give me the opportunity to get involved in things I never normally would. I work in construction and my usual working week is spent on a building site. Working alongside the team at Equal Futures



will give me the opportunity to get involved in helping people in such a rewarding way. I wanted to do something challenging, rewarding, and fun and volunteering with Equal Futures certainly ticked all three boxes.

Overall, it was an amazing experience for me, and I look forward to other opportunities to get involved and I would highly recommend Equal Futures to anyone thinking about volunteering.

### Volunteer Story - Cara McLaughlin

I had a fantastic experience at this year's Kiltwalk! The team was out in full force to raise as much money as possible and we done just that. We had the perfect weather, great company, and gorgeous views.



### Volunteer Story - Lisa Paul

I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Kiltwalk. It was worth the battle with Scotrail's temperamental train service to help raise money for such a great cause! It was also lovely to see so many other charities out to support those with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. It feels good to be a part of something good.

## Alan's day out with Gus

I asked Gus if he would like to go to the Falkirk Wheel as one of our visits and he agreed.

Gus drove us there, we got our tickets and waited in a short queue to get on the boat to take us across. I am not very good with heights so I asked Gus to

sit at the window seat when we got on, as I was a wee bit scared, and he did. That made me feel a bit better.

We had a great view and I'm really pleased with myself for going on it and that I managed to enjoy it.

As usual, we went to the coffee shop where Gus had his favourite, a coffee and a scone. I had my usual Diet Coke and a sandwich.

I told my sister I might go up Blackpool Tower when we go in June, and she told me I would be going myself. She is still a big feartie! 😊

I really enjoy my outings with Gus. He is a great pal!



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## Edinburgh and Lothians: June Social Event

Edinburgh's coordinator Jane is busy planning the next Edinburgh area social event, which we are planning for the end of June. The date is to be confirmed.

She has a couple of ideas in mind for the next event but is keen to get some feedback and ideas from **you**, our Equal Futures members.

- Are there any activities you have been hankering to try out?
- A fabulous venue you visited recently you think more of our Equal Futures cohort may enjoy?
- Any shows events or exhibitions that jump out as something not to miss?

**Let us know!**

As always, your local coordinator of your first port of call with suggestions - or you can email Jane:

[Jane.Mcallister@equalfutures.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Mcallister@equalfutures.org.uk)

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## Easter Egg Decoration Competition Winner

Special mention to Cara, well done!



## Good news story - Cara

Equal Futures received a donation of 2 tickets for Russell Brand's show in Glasgow on Monday 9 May. These tickets were used in a prize draw between our volunteers. Cara McLaughlin was the lucky winner.

Cara and a friend attended the show and said they laughed throughout. "It was a lovely wee night out and such a great opportunity to have received through volunteering"



If you - or someone you know - have items that you think would help us raise funds or be suitable gifts for our volunteers, please let us know. Having items to fundraise with or use in our Volunteer Recognition Programme is invaluable to us!

You can contact us at [info@equalfutures.org.uk](mailto:info@equalfutures.org.uk)