



coalition

of carers in Scotland



our activities 2009–10

our work with partners

our work with carers and local carer organisations

- In partnership with over 80 local carer organisations, we contributed to the development of carer recognition and support in key health and social care policy, including:
 - 'Caring Together' Scotland's Carers and Young Carers Strategy
 - The Re-Shaping of Older People's Services
 - Scotland's National Dementia Strategy
 - Self-Directed Support
 - The Patient's Rights Bill
 - The Independent Budget Review
- In partnership with Highland Community Care Forum we surveyed parent carers on their experiences of transition periods.
- In partnership with The Dochas Carers Centre we identified and established support for carers on Islay.
- In partnership with VSA Aberdeen Carers we facilitated a residential course on Carer Participation in Planning.

our work with national and european organisations

- In partnership with the National Carer Organisations Group we:
 - Contributed to a national pilot on carer training delivered by the Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project (MECOPP) and the Highland Community Care Forum.
 - Continued to promote a carer focus in local strategic planning, including the development of Single Outcome Agreements.
 - Worked with the Scottish Government regarding the development of a carer training consortium and grant fund.

- In partnership with Shared Care Scotland, we developed and distributed over 3,000 briefings promoting the Short Breaks Guidance.
- In partnership with the Long Term Conditions Alliance we represented carers on their board and Self-Management Fund Grant Panel.
- In partnership with Voices of Carers Across Lothian (VOCAL), Eurocarers, the Scottish Government and other carer organisations we organised Scotland's first European Carer Conference.

'caring together'

Over the last year the Coalition has been actively involved in the development of Caring Together, Scotland's Carers and Young Carers Strategy. For the first time carers have been recognised as **equal partners in care**, with the strategy outlining a shared vision for the future of carer recognition and support in Scotland. Throughout this process we ensured the carers voice remained central to the development of the strategy, through:

- Our active involvement on the Steering Group, Short Breaks Task Group and other working groups.
- In partnership with VOCAL we helped to establish a Carers Reference Group.
- In partnership with our member organisations we ensured carers were informed and consulted on the development of the strategy through briefings and member meetings.
- In partnership with the Scottish Government and local members we facilitated four engagement events for carers and key stakeholders across Scotland.



chairperson's report

In the year since March 2009, and subsequently, the Coalition has grown in confidence and its membership, activities, and influence have continued to expand.

Two examples (from many), clearly illustrate the key values to which we hold (working in partnership, and being guided by carers' agendas):

Training has ever been a key priority for carers, and November 2009 saw the launch of the national Carer Training Pilot – the result of a key Carer priority creating a real and practical partnership between the national carer organisations, and which has further developed since March 2010 towards a national Carer Training Consortium.

Perhaps the most significant area of activity has been the Coalition's involvement at all stages in the new national Carers Strategy – again a broad partnership across the Scottish Government, local authorities, carers' movement and carers themselves. It is worth noting that, since the launch in July 2010, carers will continue to be involved in ensuring effective implementation.

The above are just two examples of the effectiveness of the Coalition's role in helping to shape the future for carers. Our working groups continue to increase the scope to encompass ever broader remits, while internally we have been seeking to strengthen our ability to operate in an increasingly difficult environment by ensuring that the Coalition is underpinned by sound policies and procedures.

In the coming year, we meet the challenge of seeking funding in times of ever-tightening financial resources across the nation. My experience of the past years of involvement with the Coalition makes me absolutely confident that we can weather whatever storms the current climate throws at us. This is entirely due to everyone involved with us – funders, partners, members, and carers.

Thank you all very much. **Alan Scougal**



our plans for the future

Over the next year the Coalition will focus on driving forward the implementation of some of the key action points within *Caring Together*, including defining and recognising carers as 'equal partners in care', developing a Carers Rights Charter that leads to tangible rights for carers and supporting greater carer engagement in local planning through carer representation on Community Health Partnerships. We will also remain actively involved, through the National Carers Organisations Group, in the development of the short breaks grant fund and the Carers Training Consortium and grant fund.

It is more important than ever for carers to achieve recognition as Scotland's front line in the provision of health and social care services. With the expected cuts to local services there will be challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities for carers to have their voices heard with the Scottish Parliamentary election in 2011 and local elections in 2012.

Over the next year the Coalition will continue to act as a 'Voice for Carers' in bringing the concerns of its members to the attention of decision makers at a national and local level and in scrutinising policy to determine its impact on the lives of carers. We will do this by producing briefings, summaries, surveys and reports on key subject areas and by bringing carers and staff from local carer organisations together to explore issues, analyse developments and identify the issues confronting carers in Scotland.

As always, we will work with our key partners to ensure the carers voice remains strong and carers achieve the recognition and support they deserve.



our finances

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland remains in good financial health.

The Coalition received two sources of revenue. The largest source of funding was a grant of £61,740 from the Scottish Government to fund the post of National Network Coordinator and to carry out specific pieces of work, with a further grant of £12,960 to arrange and hold a four engagement events across Scotland to consult on the development of the new national carers strategy Caring Together.

The second source of income was £3,130 from members who pay affiliation fees according to their means. This revenue is kept separate and used for different purposes and is regarded as unrestricted funds.

Fife Carers Centre carries out the day-to-day financial management and receives a small management fee. HW Berry, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors prepare the financial statements.

Copies of the full accounts are available on request.

our contact details

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our funders and supporters



In 2008 the Coalition was awarded three-year continuation funding from the Scottish Government through a Section 10 grant. This is used to fund our core activities and to employ our Network Coordinator.

about us

We are a coalition of over 80 local carer organisations that was established in 1998. We have members in every local authority in Scotland and through them we reach over 60,000 carers

We have a proven track record of bringing the 'carers voice' to national planning and policy initiatives; of producing briefings, summaries, surveys and reports on key subject areas and ensuring widespread distribution through our membership.

We are an inclusive organisation and endeavour to represent the diversity of the carer population across Scotland.

Membership is open to all carers and carer-led organisations. Affiliation fees are on a sliding scale from £10 to £100 per year. Membership is free to carers.

The Coalition is governed by an Executive Committee, made up of carers and staff from local carer organisations. The Coalition is supported in its work by its member organisations and volunteers and has one full time member of staff to coordinate activities.

www.carersnet.org