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# **Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2011**

**Jointly developed through the National Carer Organisations Group**

**Two part campaign:**

## **Part One**

- **Developing the Carers Manifesto**
- **Influencing the development of Party Manifestos**

## **Part Two**

- **Raising political awareness of carers**
- **Ensuring candidates have an awareness of local issues that effect carers**

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# How the Manifesto has been developed

- **Building on current evidence base and carer views**
  - Care 21
  - Carers and Young Carers Strategy
  - Survey on local carer organisation funding
- **Including killer facts and carer quotes**
- **Outlining key commitments for political parties**
- **Where possible, building on current policies and funding streams**

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***“I have lost many things because of caring... I’ve have to give up my career, I have so little time to myself, money is tight – so holidays, buying new clothes doesn’t happen. I have had to constantly fight for the little help I get. It’s not fair. What we do is important – critical’***

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# **Carers are essential to our communities and our economy**

## **Scotland's carers must have a right to:**

- **Support to assist them in their caring role**
- **A regular break**
- **A life outside of caring**

## **Scotland's young carers must have a right to:**

- **Be children and young people first**
- **Have the same opportunities and life chances as their peers**
- **Reach their full potential**

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**As a minimum, each political party must commit to:**

- **Implementing ‘Caring Together’**
- **Realigning resources to enhance support for carers across Scotland and improve their lives.**
- **Implementing a Carers Rights Charter and extend further rights to carers**
- **Ensuring that unpaid carers do not suffer disadvantage because they cannot access appropriate services or experience an increase in the burden of care as a result of policies to “shift the balance of care” to communities**

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Every carer deserves the right to:  
**Support to help them in their caring role**

## **Killer Fact**

**19% of carers say if they had received more support as a carer, it would have prevented the person they care for being (re) admitted to hospital**

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**As a minimum, each political party must commit to:**

- **Securing and sustaining funding for carer organisations.**
- **Continuing to invest in training and skills development to enable carers to manage and have more confidence in caring.**
- **Ensuring carers are prioritised within primary care and psychological services, to access help and early treatment for anxiety, depression or mental ill health.**
- **Prioritising carers within national and local health and wellbeing strategies and providing regular health checks to carers**

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**Every carer deserves the right to:  
A regular quality break**

**Killer Fact**

**39% of carers have not had a break from  
their caring responsibilities lasting longer  
than 2 days**

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**As a minimum, each political party must commit to:**

- **Ensuring there are enough resources available to improve the quality, choice and availability of short break services**
- **Developing a nationally coordinated Short Break Transformation Fund to help local authorities, Health Boards and their planning partners move from crisis-led to prevention-led short break services**
- **Putting in place the necessary plans and resources so that national priorities for short break improvements are translated into local action, and that progress can be measured**

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**Every carer deserves the right to:  
A life outside caring**

**Killer Fact**

**75% of carers live in fuel poverty. More carers experience fuel poverty than any other group in society.**

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**As a minimum, each political party must commit to:**

- **Extending initiatives to prevent fuel poverty**
- **Including carers, as a target group who face particular disadvantage within national and local economic and skills development strategies and employment support initiatives.**
- **Working with public and private sector employers, including small business, to promote flexible working and carer friendly working practices.**

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Every carer deserves the right to:

**Be a child and young person first**

**Killer Fact**

**70% of young carers say that caring makes  
their life more difficult**

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**As a minimum, each political party must commit to:**

- **Implementing the action points in the national young carers strategy**
- **Developing effective support for young carers provided by an appropriately skilled and competent workforce across universal services**
- **Securing sustainable funding to strengthen the capacity of dedicated young carers services**

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# **Influencing the development of party manifestos**

- **Meeting with cabinet members and shadow cabinets**
- **Meetings between individual politicians, local carer organisations and carers**
- **Launch at Cross Party Working Group on Carers in September**

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## **Discussion Groups**

# **Local involvement in the Carers Manifesto Campaign....**