

# The Coalition of Carers in Scotland

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010

#### **Present:**

Mary Stewart	Fife Carers Centre
Bill Middleton	Fife Carers Centre
Seb Fischer	Voice of Carers Across Lothian (VOCAL)
Claire Cairns	The Coalition of Carers in Scotland
Sheena Munro	HCCF
Ann Anderson	VOCAL
Diana Buchanan	G.S.W.C.C
Brett Millett	G.S.W.C.C
Rosemary Nicholson	GAMH
Jillian Dougall	West Lothian Council
Jane O'Donnell	Carers Centre, North Glasgow
Ellen Moffat	Glasgow South East Carers Centre
Teresa Latta	GCC Social Work
John Gracie	CEC Home Care
Jenna MacDonald	CarersLink
Diana Goodman	Renfrewshire Carers Centre
Suzanne Munday	MECOPP
Mike Martin	JIT
Josephine McGhee	GSE Carers Centre
Jacqueline Mosbah	SE Carers Centre
Ann Allcoat	PRTC
B McGaugley	Carers West Dunbartonshire
Alana McDicken	PAMIS
Alan Gow	CAST
Pat Jeffret	CAST
Ann McQuade	North Ayrshire Carers Centre
Joyce Smith	North Ayrshire Carers Centre
Susan Edgar	Renfrewshire Council
Eileen Ronnie	Care 4 Carers
Maureen Kerley	Care 4 Carers
Brian Maguire	Glasgow Carers Forum
Kevin McKay	Alzheimers Scotland
Hugh Rodgers	Independent Advocacy
Gillian Smith	Carers Support Team
Denise Brown	CEC
Dionne Yorkston	CEC
Norman Williamson	Carers Link
Sharon Moncrieff	Carers Link
Ann Teale	North Lanarkshire Carers Together
Harry McBride	Glasgow East End Carers
Kerrie Sneddon	Student
Sean Duncan	Glasgow South Carers
Sue Bernard	VSA Carers
Allyson Flockhart	VSA Carers
Richard Livingston	Renfrewshire Carers

#### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making the journey through the snow, despite the difficult travelling conditions.

Alan informed the group of an upcoming two day training course on Carer Participation in Planning at the Dunblane Hydro on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May. This course is free to Coalition members, further information will be sent out next month

Rural Transport: Alan informed the group about the threat to hospital transport in the Highlands. He is trying to ascertain if this is happening in any other areas of Scotland. Alan asked members to come forward if they were aware of similar problems in their area.

Seb Fisher provided an update on the European Carer Conference ' Does Europe Care' which will be held in Edinburgh from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. Further details and booking information can be found at the following Website:  
<http://www.hfevents.co.uk/DoesEuropeCare2010>

## **2. Annual General Meeting**

**Chairperson's report** – Alan gave an overview of the years activities and outlined some thoughts for the future

**Network Coordinator's report** – Claire gave a summary of the Coalition's activities over the last year

**Treasurer's report** – Mary gave a report of the Coalition's finances. Copies of the accounts were made available to members.

**Election of Executive Committee members** - All those standing for re-election were voted onto the Executive Committee. A new member, Alan Gow a carer and member of CAST Carers was welcomed onto the committee.

**Change to Constitution** – Alan suggested a change to the Coalition's constitution, to allow the AGM to be held at any time of year. At the moment the constitution specifies that the AGM must be held in February, which does not fit in with financial reporting. This change was unanimously agreed.

A copy of the Chairperson's report, or any of the presentations from the meeting can be found on our Website at: [www.carersnet.org](http://www.carersnet.org) or copies can be ordered by phoning the Coalition at: 01786 825529

## **3. Mike Martin, The Joint Improvement Team, The Scottish Government**

Mike provided an overview of how the Scottish Government is implementing the re-shaping of older people's services.

A copy of Mike's presentation, or any of the presentations from the meeting can be found on our Website at: [www.carersnet.org](http://www.carersnet.org) or copies can be ordered by phoning the Coalition at: 01786 825529

## **4. Questions, Answers and Discussion session**

Alan Scougal: It is very positive that there has been an engagement process and a building consensus across government on these developments. Changing attitudes is very challenging and difficult for people.

Mike Martin: Responses are very positive at the moment. It is challenging to change behaviour and translate this into action. Shifting control is a big part of this, through personalisation. This is very difficult for clinicians and managers to adapt to.

Mary Stewart, Fife: The difficulty is in translating this into action. Hospitals, CHPs, Councils and managers are entrenched in their positions. How do you change them so they are all facing in the right direction?

Mike Martin: I share this concern and recognise it. It would have been much easier to do this 10 years ago when there were more resources, but we tended to use those to do more of the same.

This has made a virtue of necessity. Scarce resources will mean we will do things in a more radical way, since it is well recognised that change is imperative. Work is going on to impress upon people the necessity of these changes. We need to release A&E resources, we know hospitals will also want to use these resources, however there is cross-party consensus that this is the way to go.

Eileen Ronnie, Edinburgh: Support in the community is not there for carers. Carers are not listened to and day services are being cut in Edinburgh, this is putting more pressure on carers  
Mike Martin: I recognise what you are saying. There is a mismatch between what we are aiming to achieve and what is on the ground. Our care system is already under strain and demands exceed resources. If we continue in the same way we will get worse. We are on a collision course. There are no more resources and the solution has to be to use existing resources better. Some initiatives are making a positive impact but are not being delivered across Scotland

Sheena Munro, Inverness: What other funding sources are being considered, such as social insurance, or will relatives be made legally responsible for caring, as in other countries? We have come to expect higher care provision and this needs more resources

Mike Martin: Funding is mostly a reserved matter, including taxation and benefits. There is a green paper on older care, with a number of proposals, including social care insurance. These are on the table, UK wide, with plans to test out this thinking through the engagement process. This will happen after the elections.

Across Europe some countries have placed a statutory duty on carers to deliver or fund the care for older people, whether there is a debate on this in Scotland, remains to be seen. Care generally needs to be seen as society's responsibility. This is part of these new developments. There are small scale developments around community development.

Alan Gow, Glasgow: I would like to pour cold water on this idea that there are no resources and we have to cut back over the next few years. We have been asking for resources for the last 20 years. After personalisation I would hate to see at the end of 20 years, carers doing more. If we don't hold on to what we have there will be trouble. If the Bank of Scotland can get resources, so can we.

Mike Martin: Even if there were resources we have got to respond to increased demand using current resources to the best effect and make sure we are using the money wisely. Hopefully there will be more resources available in the next few years. We need to be sure about how we would use this successfully. In the last 10 years we have had more money in care services than ever before and there is still a dissatisfaction with services.

#### **5. Denise Brown, Manager of Home Based Services, Edinburgh City Council**

Denise provided an overview of Edinburgh council's Re-Ablement programme, which has recently been evaluated. This service provides people with short term intensive support, in order to enable them to re-learn previous skills and regain independence.

#### **6. Moira MacKenzie, Joint Improvement Team, The Scottish Government**

Moira provided an overview of the Government's Telecare programme. Telecare assists people with health and social care needs to remain safely in their own home, through the use of technology.

#### **7. Questions, Answers and Discussion session**

Rosemary Nicholson, Glasgow; There are many positive things about Telecare. Are there opportunities for people with mental health problems to use Telecare. Perhaps you could look at research into this.

Moira MacKenzie: A number of people with mental illness have been supported through Telecare and their numbers are growing but are still small at the moment. People are trying new things at a local level, for example using Telecare to prompt medication

Fiona Collie, Carers Scotland: From Carers Scotland's perspective we are raising awareness of what is happening on the ground. We will look at this and share information with Moira.

Denise Brown: In relation to re-ablement, these are services which are flexible and tailored, setting small achievable goals and involving people from the on-set. This has worked well for people with mental health issues.

Alan Scougal: Telecare is very often about guaranteeing and speeding up the human response and helping with self-management.

Sheena Munro, Inverness: What has been the feedback from carers about re-ablement. What is the long term impact on family carers:

Denise Brown: Its only been a year and we need to do longer term studies. The statistics show that in 82% of cases, goals are being fully or partially met and 92% of participants are reporting increased confidence in their own home. We work continually with the carer to make sure they are happy. We have retrained staff to encourage independence. Sometimes families can be over-protective and need to be educated as well to allow independence. The handover is very important in this and working with carers.

### **8. Final Remarks and Closing**

Alan thanked everyone for attending and participating in discussions and wished them a safe journey home.