

Coalition of Carers in Scotland

Carers in Europe Working Group: Wednesday 19th August 2009

Present:

Sebastian Fischer (Convenor, Edinburgh)

Alan Scougal (Highlands)

Mary Stewart (Fife)

Claire Cairns (Network Coordinator)

Apologies

Sue Bernard (Aberdeen)

Tony Fitzpatrick (Lanarkshire)

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as accurate. All other matters were included in the agenda.

2. Review of the conference and potential Action Points

There were many challenges due to the volcanic ash and speakers cancelling, however the agenda was adapted to compensate. The evaluation has been very positive.

Congratulations were given to Seb and Henri for producing a successful conference despite the challenges. A report on the conference will be available soon.

3. Future plans for working with Eurocarers and the European Parliamentary Carers interest Group

There was a discussion about representatives from Coalition attending the next meeting of the Carers Reference Group in Brussels. There needs to be further thought on who would be able to give some time and expertise to this on a more long term basis. Seb will send out dates.

It was agreed that there was a need to look at government policies and potential submissions to policy consultation from the Coalition, in addition to the submissions from Eurocarers.

The development of a European Carer Manifesto was also identified as a priority.

As one of the very few countries to have a Carers Strategy and the only one to have a Young Carers Strategy, it was agreed that we should distribute this to Eurocarer members, add to the Eurocarers Website and submit an article to the parliamentary magazine.

4. Potential for twinning links and a carer exchange

There was a discussion on twinning with another European country, We have already fostered links with Germany through Seb's links with the development of Wir Pflegen. There was discussion on who would most benefit from developments in Scotland through a twinning link. The Netherlands and Luxembourg were put forward as potential twinning partners. We could also look at Austria, who were not present at the Edinburgh conference.

Claire to speak to Yolanda / Jancor De Beur from Mezzo to investigate this further. We firstly need to establish mutual learning points and then arrange for a visit to each country. We would fund our flights and their accommodation here.

This development could potentially be linked to the Peer Review process.

5. Agreed action points

- Seb to send out the dates of future Eurocarers and Carer Interest Group meetings
- Future submissions to European policy consultation to be considered
- Carers Strategy to be distributed through the Eurocarers Website and the potential for an article in the parliamentary magazine to be explored
- Seb to raise the potential for a European Carer Manifesto with the Eurocarers Executive.
- Claire to speak to Yolanda about the potential for a twinning arrangement

6. AOCB

It was agreed that there was not a need to set a further date at present, until further progress has been made.