



our activities 2008-09

our highlights



our member meetings

Four member meetings were attended by over 200 carers and staff from local carer organisations. The main themes and detailed debate and workshops focused on:

- carer poverty.
- the impact of local Single Outcome Agreements on carers.
- the development of outcomes and indicators for carers.
- short breaks and direct payments.
- engaging local government.

working with partners

As a member of the National Carer Organisations Group, the Coalition has worked closely with Shared Care Scotland, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Scotland's Young Carers Alliance, Carers Scotland and Crossroads Scotland. We have jointly:

- developed and distributed a guide to the concordat and have worked with local partners to promote carer outcomes in Single Outcome Agreements.
- served on a national Respite Task Group and shaped new national guidance on short breaks and respite services.
- produced briefings on new policy developments for carers and local carer organisations.
- met with COSLA to represent carers views on charging policies for social care services.
- contributed to the planning of the carer conference 'Getting it Right for Carers' at Caledonian University.

The Coalition also joined the Long Term Conditions Alliance and is now represented on their National Council.

chairperson's report

The year which has passed since my previous report can best be described as exciting!

The details of our activities appear elsewhere; but I have sensed a change in Coalition over the year. We have grown in confidence, and in our ability to multi-task and reach out to carers.

The expanding volume and variety of issues led to the development of four working groups, which have both increased the capacity of the Coalition (particularly in the more remote areas of Scotland, and in Europe), and provided additional opportunities for members to engage in areas of their specific interest.

The establishment of our charitable status has brought with it the expected opportunities and challenges, while major efforts have been directed at issues arising from the Single Outcome Agreements.

Through all these activities, partnership working remains a major influence, and we continue to be shaped by our core values as a group of volunteers, taking forward the carers' agenda, driven by what carers tell us.

My most sincere thanks go to everyone, within and outside the Coalition, who help us achieve so much for Scotland's carers.



Alan Scougal, Feb 2009



our working groups

In 2008 the Coalition established working groups to extend our activities in four key areas. Each group includes carers and members of our Executive Committee. By meeting via conference calls we have been able to include people from across Scotland, including the Highlands and Islands.

short breaks

Aim: To improve the planning and delivery of respite and short break provision in Scotland, by:

- Promoting the Short Breaks Guidance.
- Establishing how the additional 10,000 respites weeks will be implemented and monitored.
- Taking forward our Joint Working Agreement with Shared Care Scotland.

rural and remote carers

Aim: To focus on the particular needs of carers from rural and island communities in Scotland, by:

- Overseeing the development of Community Facilitators in key rural areas. Initially, the Highlands and the Western Isles.
- Consulting with carers from rural areas on issues of local importance and bringing their concerns to the attention of local and national decision makers.

policy and partnership

Aim: To ensure carers and member organisations are involved in shaping policy and partnership developments, by:

- Providing representation on parliamentary and partnership groups.
- Promoting effective carer participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of policy.
- Assisting in the development of new and innovative policy, producing tangible outcomes and benefits for carers.
- Contributing a carers voice to government consultations. For example, the Patients Rights Bill.

Our Plans for the Future

Over the last year we have focussed on the key priorities of short breaks, carer training, and carers health and wellbeing. Good progress has been made in some areas, but a lot more remains to be done. For the year ahead we will keep our focus on these areas.

As a result of the concordat we have seen many changes to the way public services are designed and delivered, with much control passing from central government to local authorities. This shift will continue to bring both challenges and opportunities to carers and local carer organisations.

2009 is an important year for carers. The review of Care 21 and the development of a new Carers Strategy for Scotland will bring opportunities for positive change. The 'personalisation' of public services will place service users and carers at the heart of service planning and further emphasise the need for delivering better outcomes for people.

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.

carers in europe

Aim: To enhance the development of carer recognition and support across Europe, by:

- Developing links between the Coalition and Eurocarers.
- Promoting Scotland's work with carers at a European level.
- Working towards a European Carer Conference in Scotland.

our finances

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

£6,303 from membership contributions was carried forward into the 2008-09 budget, and a grant of £47,707 from the Scottish Government has been used to fund the post of national Network Coordinator, carer consultations and quarterly meetings. A further £3,115 income was raised from membership fees in 2008-09.

The Coalition's campaigning work is entirely funded by additional membership contributions. This year we managed to raise £15,620 for our joint campaign with Scotland's national carer organisations targeted at local authorities for better carer outcome targets in Single Outcome Agreements.

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.



In June 2008 we receive a small grant of £6,880 from the Scottish Health Council, which has allowed us to extend our activities in the Highlands and Islands, ensuring carers in the most remote areas of Scotland have a voice.

about us

We are a coalition of 81 local carer organisations which 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 within 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