

Carers' Strategy for Scotland – Scottish Government, in partnership with CoSLA

**Carers' Reference Group
Terms of Reference (Final Draft)**

1. The remit of this Carers Group, drawn from carers of different geographical, cultural and caring communities in Scotland, is to act as a reference and scrutiny group for the development of a new national carers' strategy for Scotland.

2. The Group will comprise a maximum of 12 people nominated by the agencies represented at the Carers' Strategy Steering Group.

3. In particular, the Group will inform the work of the Carers' Strategy Steering Group established by the Scottish Government and the future direction for carer policy and practice, by ensuring strategic objectives:
 - 3.1 Reflect the needs of unpaid carers, including the specific needs of different groups of carers, recognising carers as key partners in planning and in the provision of care;
 - 3.2 Address current priorities of carers, and develop short-term and long-term priorities for unpaid carer support for all relevant groups and services;
 - 3.3 Promote positive outcomes for unpaid carers and those they care for, focusing on the outcomes for carers, identified in the framework developed by the National Carer Organisations and the Joint Improvement Team (as set out in the paper: *The National Carers Organisations: Positive Outcomes for Carers*);
 - 3.4 Promote increasing delivery of personalised support to carers and equitable access to services and support, as far as is possible;
 - 3.5 Support and inform the development of local carers' support services, maintaining a partnership focus; and
 - 3.6 Include a focus on effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.

4. The Group's work will be facilitated by VOCAL (Voice of Carers Across Lothian). This will include all relevant supports required to allow carers to attend. Expenses and care costs will be met in full.

5. The Reference Group will meet three times in between meetings of the Steering Group, and will elect a representative to attend Steering Group meetings.
6. Reference Group members have the right to request papers and presentations from lead officers responsible for the development of different aspects of the strategy. However, to avoid duplication of effort, papers must be similar to those produced for the Strategy Steering Group meetings. Lead officers will be represented at all Reference Group meetings.
7. Outputs will consist of records and minutes of meetings which set out key concerns and experiences of carers, and proposals and indicators for service improvements.
8. Carers will also be encouraged to submit any evidence from their local work which can help inform the new strategy, in particular examples of good practice or case studies.
9. A carer member of the panel will be attending future Strategy Board meetings to provide a further link between the Carers' Reference Group and the work of the Steering Group.
10. The overall aim is that the process of carer engagement in the strategy development will have been strengthened, carers will feel heard, and the end product – the new strategy – will be better informed by carers' views and more relevant and responsive to the practical needs of carers on the ground.

VOCAL and Scottish Government

19 May 2009