

Short Break (Respite) Task Group 2009—2010 Proposed Remit and Membership

Introduction

1. It is proposed that the Respite Task Group, be reconvened as the Short Break (Respite) Task Group (SBTG), in order to coordinate and undertake a number of tasks related to the provision of short breaks to unpaid carers, as outlined in this paper.

Carers Strategy for Scotland

2. The SBTG will be responsible for producing relevant information and data on short breaks (respite) in order to inform the development of the revised Strategy for Carers in Scotland. In doing so, this will;

- Identify the range and availability of current short break service provision.
- Draw from available evidence on the quality of this provision.
- Source examples of best practice, to promote within the Strategy.
- Represent carers' views of the need for, quality of and availability of short breaks.
- Highlight gaps in availability of short breaks, both in terms of types of breaks and in relation to particular geographical areas.

Progress in respect of this tasks will be reported to each meeting of the Carers Strategy Steering Group.

Manifesto Commitment

3. The SBTG will be responsible for considering and developing, by March 2010, options to support the implementation of the manifesto commitment that *“by 2011 carers in the greatest need will have a guaranteed annual entitlement to breaks from caring”*.

4. In doing so consideration will require to be given to:

- Developing an approach to determine and define those in the “greatest need”.
- Assessing the level of “entitlement” that might be provided.
- How “breaks from caring” that are personalised and of quality can be delivered.
- The risks and opportunities provided by the different definitions and possible options.
- Producing indicative costs for any options developed.

5. In progressing this work the SBTGroup will take cognisance of the new relationship between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities set out by the Concordat, as well as the current policy context provided by;

- The development of a new Strategy for Carers in Scotland, building on Care 21 Report.
- The production of a National Standard Eligibility Criteria for Community Care Services in Scotland, currently out for consultation.

- Scottish Government and COSLA “Guidance on Short breaks (Respite) - 2008”.
- The shift from institutional settings towards home-based support and alternative models of care.
- Personalised support to improve outcomes for carers and service users.
- Planned legislative changes to extend Direct Payments to carers, in the context of work on Self-Directed Support.
- Provision for short breaks in England contained in the Children and Young Persons Act.
- Previous analysis carried out by the Respite Task Group.

Guidance on Short Breaks

6. Further, the group will assess the impact of the publication by the Scottish Government and COSLA of its “Guidance on Short Breaks (Respite)”, will seek to identify more effective ways to promote that guidance and to also highlight best practice in its implementation, and in the delivery of short break services.

Membership and Frequency of Meetings

7. It is proposed that, to reflect the tasks required to deliver on this remit, the membership of the previous Respite Task Group be revised to include:

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| • | Moira Oliphant (Chair) | Scottish Government |
| • | Gordon Paterson | Scottish Government |
| • | Ron Culley | COSLA |
| • | Claire Cairns | Coalition of Carers in Scotland |
| • | Don Williamson | Shared Care Scotland |
| • | Jack Ryan | Crossroads Scotland |
| • | Jackie Donnelly | ADSW |
| • | Julie Rintoul | Scottish Government (attending on an ad-hoc basis) |
| • | Mary Yates | Respite Sharing Practice Network |
| • | Others, as suggested? | |

8. It is proposed that the first meeting of the Short Break Task Group will take place in early July 2009 and that the group will meet bi-monthly thereafter (September and November 2009, then January and March 2010).

**Scottish Government
Community Care Division
4 June 2009**