



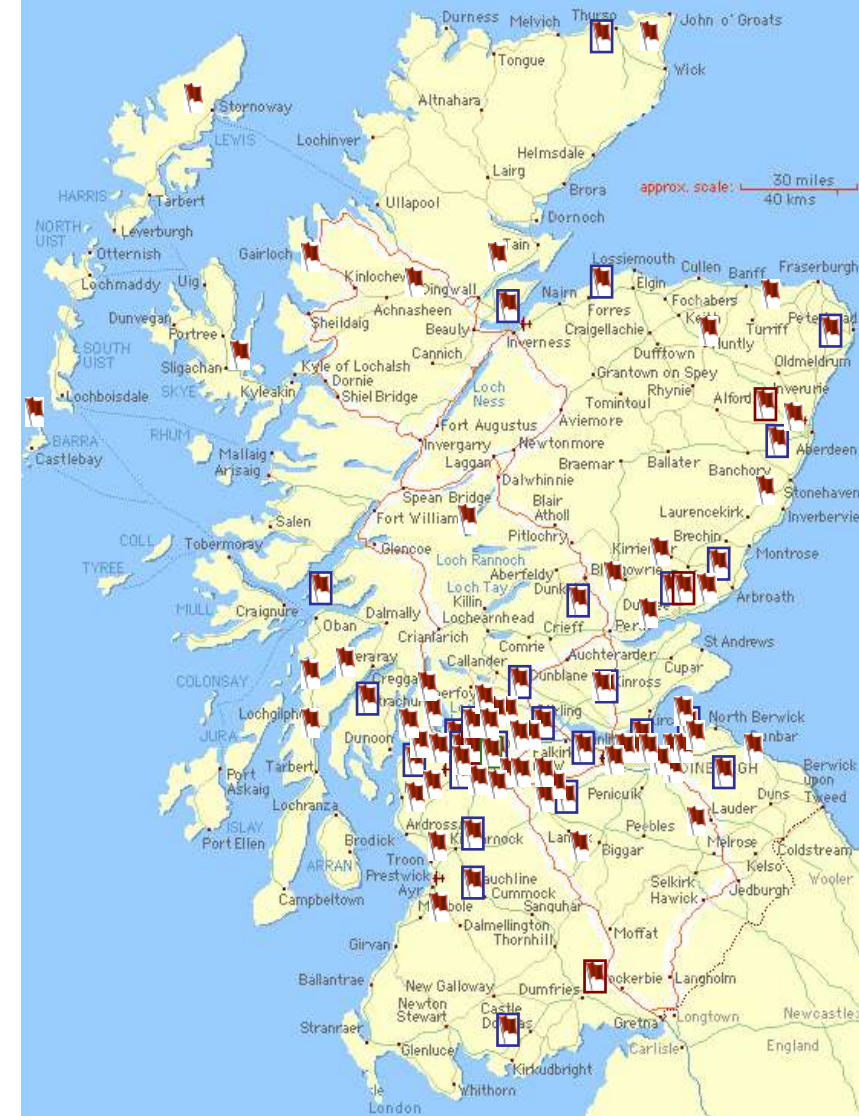
The Coalition of Carers in Scotland

25 years of the carers' movement in Scotland

Sebastian Fischer

The 1990s: Building a New Scotland

- The NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- The Princess Royal Trust for Carers
- 1994: First Carer Centres in Scotland
- Campaign for a Scottish Parliament & The Constitutional Convention – reflecting a very inclusive approach
- 1997 Referendum, The Scotland Act 1998
- **1998 the Coalition of Carers in Scotland born**
- 1999 The Scottish Parliament in 1999



1999 – 2009 Carer Recognition

- 1st Scotland Carers Strategy – Nov 1999, Iain Gray
- The Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000
- The Community Care and Health Act 2002
 - recognises carers as ‘Partners in Care’, NHS Carer Info Strategies, carers assessment and Free Personal Care for older people
- 2005: ‘The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland’
- **The network of Carer Centres grows, Coalition of Carers gets funding and appoints first staff member**
- 2009: Caring Together, Carers Strategy for Scotland’



2009: From recognition to rights!



2009 - 2018
From
recognition
to rights



 coalition
of carers in scotland
From recognition to rights



2009 – 2018

From Recognition to Rights

- 2012 first Carers Parliament
- Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, Implemented 2018
 - Rights include:
 - The right to information and advice
 - A right to an Adult Carer Support Plan, or Young Carer Statement
 - The right to be consulted on services and involved in the hospital discharge
 - The right to support where they meet eligibility criteria



The 5 National Carer Organisations form a closer partnership

The Public Bodies Joint Working Act becomes law in 2016 and carers become members of the Integrated Joint Boards

2018 - 2023

- Free personal care is extended to all adults (2020)
- The pandemic has a huge impact on carers
- Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (2021) recommends radical changes to improve social care in Scotland
- Proposals for a National Care Service, incl a right to breaks from caring
- The Scotland Carers Strategy published in December 2022

The secrets of success

- Always aspirational and carer-led
- First and foremost an advocacy movement – the voice of carers
- Clear aims and principles, based on guiding principles of Eurocarers
- Framing the debate on our terms:
 - ‘unpaid carers’, not informal carers
 - ‘equal partners in care’
- Solution-focused
- Building alliances - engaging a wide range of partners
- Co-operation, collaboration and co-production

Clear solution-focused positions – unashamedly political

Manifesto for Carers in Scotland



1 in 6 of Scotland's population is an unpaid carer. CARERS HAVE VOTES.

We are calling on all candidates in the local council elections to agree to:

- Protect funding for carer support & ensure there are adequate resources to implement the Carers Act
- Increase efforts to improve short breaks provision
- Promote better, preventative support for carers
- Improve financial support for carers of all ages
- Support carers in and into employment

Protect funding for carer support & ensure there are adequate resources to implement the Carers Act

The Carers Act will provide carers with new rights and entitlements, including the right to support, based on eligibility criteria. It is essential that the Act has a strong financial footing and that sufficient resources are available to fully implement the new duties. Councils will need to invest both new and existing resources in carer support, building on and expanding the carer support that already exists in their area.

We call on all candidates to:

- Protect and resource local carer support services to manage the increasing demands on their services.
- Ensure that resources provided to implement the Carers Act are used for that purpose and are in addition to the current local investment in carer support.

Carers contribute **£10.8bn** of unpaid care in Scotland each year

The number of adults in need of care is expected to increase **30%** by 2026 as our population ages

Investing in support for carers now will mean they can continue in their caring role, protecting the health of the people they care for and securing the longevity of our social care system.

A Manifesto for Unpaid Carers and Young Carers



2021



MANIFESTO FOR UNPAID CARERS IN SCOTLAND

Where next for the the carers movement?

- The history of Scotland's carers movement is unfinished!
- The people who write the next chapter of the history of the carers' movement sit in this hall, and wait out in our communities
- We need to reconnect to Europe, for the issues are the same
- More devolution – to local authorities, communities, and to carers
- Rights must become realisable – infrastructure of support must grow
- Towards a new social contract for carers!