



Carers (Scotland) Act to Commence on 1st April 2018

We have been keeping our members updated with the progress around all areas of the Carers (Scotland) Act which gained Royal assent earlier this year. It was originally planned that implementation of the Act would commence on April 2017, however the Scottish Government have formally notified COSLA that implementation will now be 1st April 2018.

The Scottish Government has said that due to the number of regulations under the Act, and the statutory guidance that requires to be prepared, a significant programme of preparation needs to take place and they intend to set up an Implementation Steering Group to provide strategic advice and guidance on the implementation.

Regulations and Guidance will be developed over the coming months and carers will be involved in this process, as well as having the opportunity to have their say on the draft regulations and guidance when they go out for consultation.

Local authorities and health boards will need to prepare in advance for the new duties which will require additional resources being invested in carer support.

As part of our work with the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, we will continue to keep you updated with developments. Register for e-bulletins via our website www.carerstogether.org and join our mailing list.

A paper has been produced by the Independent Living in Scotland project to promote the shared ambitions for the future of social care support in Scotland. To read full document www.carersnet.org you can also view at www.carestogether.org



Have Your Say on Lanarkshire's New Healthcare Strategy 'Achieving Excellence'

Achieving Excellence sits alongside the Joint Strategic Commissioning Plans produced by Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership. This new healthcare strategy is to help people live longer and have healthier lives and sets out a number of proposals including:

- Plans for a £400m project to replace or fully refurbish Monklands Hospital
- The delivery of high quality specialist services in centres of excellence
- Increased use of technology to help patients manage their own conditions
- The development of a community service
- A long-term model for the provision of trauma and orthopaedic surgery in Lanarkshire.



The consultation runs to 1st November – you can view full consultation documents on our website www.carerstogether.org If you require hard copies please contact the office on **01698 404055**



Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire

The Joint Integration Board (JIB) is currently working on the Strategic Commissioning Plan for North Lanarkshire which will set out the detail of how the models of care for integrated service provision will be transformed, redesigned and improved to deliver the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Outcome 6 states:

“People who provide care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being.”

North Lanarkshire Carers Together's analysis report of a three year carers' health needs survey will be available to download from our website from November or you can request a copy from admin@carerstogether.org



Working for You

North Lanarkshire Carers Together has developed its role within the Locality Partnership Development Programme and is now Host Organisation to Airdrie & Motherwell Locality.

North Lanarkshire Carers Together is one of 5 local third sector organisations throughout North Lanarkshire that make up the Locality Development Partnership Programme which is co-ordinated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire. Each locality has a consortium which works with local groups and services to build their capacity in order to meet the needs of local people who have support needs and their carers.

If you would like to know what's happening in your area call Frances or Marc on **01698 404055**



Picture above - Staff and volunteers from LANDED at our Carers Family Fun Day

What is Making Life Easier?

Making Life Easier is an online self-help tool, providing professional advice and guidance for those who would like help to live independently at home. This service is provided by North Lanarkshire Council. This online resource is being further developed to incorporate a "carer's app" and North Lanarkshire Carers together are delighted to be working in close partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and other carer organisations such as Lanarkshire Carers Centre, Young Carers Project and Alzheimer's Scotland to ensure carers' needs and requirements are considered.

www.makinglifeeasier.org.uk

You can also visit the site by clicking on the resource tab on our webpage www.carerstogether.org

Briefing on the Implementation of Charging for Social Work Services

At the meeting of the Integrated Joint Board of Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire in May, it was agreed that a fee should be charged for aspects of the social work service in North Lanarkshire, namely the Community Alarm Service and attendance at Integrated Day Services for older people that had previously not attracted a charge. The decision to apply these charges is in response to unprecedented pressure on public finances as experienced by social work and NHS Lanarkshire and is intended to maintain service quality.

Community Alarm Service

North Lanarkshire is one of the last partnership areas in Scotland to charge for a community alarm service which for a number of years has been free. Demand for the service is increasing as the population ages and the partnership needs to be in a position to meet this. The charge has been set at £5 per week and commenced in August 2016. Invoices have been sent to people in possession of an alarm with different payment options available. Those affected by the charge have received information on who to contact to discuss any issues they may have.

Integrated Day Services for Older People (IDS)

IDS operate across North Lanarkshire providing support for people to continue living in their own homes and communities. Around 400 people are supported at any given time predominately in new purpose built facilities. A flat rate charge of £10 per session attended plus an additional charge for a meal is applied. Again, those affected by the charge have received information on who to contact to discuss any issues they may have.

Everyone affected by the new charges has been offered an up to date financial assessment by North Lanarkshire Council's Financial Inclusion Team which ensures the person is receiving the correct amount of income that they are entitled to. Procedures are in place to assist those who may be experiencing difficulty in maintaining the payments.

Further information can be accessed through Social Work Locality offices or by visiting the Council's website.

Know Your Rights!

Carer's Rights Day is now around the corner on 25th November. Our carer information workers will be hosting an information stall in...

- **Asda Coatbridge from 9.30am - 12.30noon**
- **Wishaw General Hospital from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Pop along for a chat or visit our website to find out any other dates for the diary...

www.carerstogether.org

New Directors Come on Board

We are delighted to welcome two new Directors to the Board of North Lanarkshire Carers Together...



Agnes Hadden

Many of you will know Agnes as a former member of staff. Agnes cares for her son Gary and brings a range of experience in relation to self-directed support, learning disability, carers rights and supporting carers to have their voice heard. Agnes lives in North Lanarkshire and currently works with Take Control (South Lanarkshire) as an Inclusive Living Adviser.

Elle Scott

Elle was a young carer for many years and attended the Action for Children – Young Carers Project where she played a key role in the establishment of the first Young Carers Youth Forum. Elle then became a valued member of staff at the project and helped develop a range of initiatives to benefit young carers. Elle is in her last year at university and has volunteered in a number of roles with our organisation over the years.



North Lanarkshire Carers Together Annual Conference

The theme of our Annual Carer Conference this year is “Being Prepared For Caring”. We will have presentations in relation to Emergency Planning for Carers, Anticipatory Care Planning, Making Life Easier and how technology can assist with caring.

It will take place on Monday 7th November from 9.30am to 2pm and the venue is the Strathclyde Hilton, Bellshill. Invitations will be posted to all members. If you are not on our database and would like to attend please call the office on **01698 404055**



Sad Passing of our Friend and Colleague

Tony Fitzpatrick, a founder Director of our organisation very sadly passed away on 15th April 2016. Tony was an avid campaigner for unpaid carers and people with mental illness and learning disabilities and gave generously of his time for these causes. Tony made significant contributions to the development of the Carers (Scotland) Act and the Carers’ Rights Charter through his involvement with the Coalition of Carers in Scotland and campaigned at all levels for better rights for carers. Tony also worked as part of the team at North Lanarkshire Carers Together when he retired from his long standing career with NHS Lanarkshire. Our thoughts go out to Tony’s wife Aileen and all of the family.

The Board of Directors wish to ensure that Tony’s legacy lives on in the work of North Lanarkshire Carers Together. With the support of Tony’s family, the organisation will present the Tony Fitzpatrick Special Achievement Award annually at its AGM.



Volunteer Recognition Awards

We were delighted to recognise 4 of our Directors for their long standing voluntary contribution to the work of our organisation. Liz Seaton, Harry Robertson, Ann Muir & Annabel Main all received recognition at this year’s AGM with their combined service to North Lanarkshire Carers Together extending beyond 50 years!!!!

Look out for our next issue of the Newsletter in May 2017



Free Health Checks for Carers

North Lanarkshire Carers Together is working in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire's Keep Well Team to pilot a free health check service for carers aged between 40 and 64 years. The partnership is currently offering 10 newly identified carers per month the opportunity to receive an in depth health check and we hope that at the end of the trial we will be able to extend this opportunity to our existing carer members.

Carers – Remember your Flu Jabs

Carers who are registered with their GP's Carer Register should soon be invited to go along to their local practice for their annual flu vaccination. Our Carer Co-ordinators work in partnership with many of the Health Centres and GP Practices in North Lanarkshire to talk to carers and ensure they have all of the information they need and make any referrals needed to support the carers. Corinne and Yvonne will be attending the following flu clinics:

- **4th, 13th and 27th October – Abronhill, Cumbernauld**
- **5th October – Newmains, Wishaw**
- **8th October and 12th November – John Street, Bellshill**
- **12th October 9.15am – 11.40am - Modyrvale HC**
- **13th October 9.10am – 11.45am & 1.00pm – 4.30pm - Modyrvale HC**
- **27th October - Buchanan Centre, Airdrie**

For additional health centres and dates please call the office or visit our website at www.carerstogether.org

Big Thankyou

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners who supported our carer initiatives during Carer's Week. Our joint working has helped identify many hard to reach carers and provide them with information and support to help them in their caring role.

Come Visit our "News" Section on our Website

As a campaigning organisation that is the 'voice for carers' in North Lanarkshire, it is important that we keep you up to date with local and national policy developments and consultation opportunities. Our website is updated regularly and we would like to invite you to look in our 'news' section which will include any current consultation opportunities. So go on, what are you waiting for. You can also join our mailing list to ensure you receive updates via e-bulletin at www.carerstogether.org

Our Promise and Aims

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CARERS TOGETHER pledges to improve the lives of carers within North Lanarkshire by actively linking carers and professionals in meaningful working relationships.

We work in equal partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and others to influence policy development and service provision, which affect both carers and the people we care for.

Our Promise to Carers

- We will show a regard for you; treat you with respect and courtesy, and promote your rights
- We will listen, hear and respond to what you say, and be assertive in representing your views and interests
- We will work as an equal partner with others on health, social care and other issues that affect your quality of life
- We will include you if you wish to participate in the work of the organisation, and support you to influence planning and decision making to the degree to which you choose to be involved
- We will recognise that you have a range of experiences and perspectives
- We will avoid discrimination on the basis of age, religion, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other reason that may lead to you being excluded
- We will provide information that is of value to you
- We will represent you with integrity

Our Aims

- To be a potent force for change
- To raise the profile of carers' issues and needs
- To influence policy development and service provision at the planning stage
- To form active links between carers and professionals
- To establish innovative and productive consultation processes with service providers
- To promote inclusion of all carers
- To represent the views of all carers, including the many young carers, in North Lanarkshire

A shout out to the pupils of Brannock high for their continued support in volunteering. This year they helped us make up information packs and also helped out at our local events. If you would like to discuss volunteering opportunities please contact marc@carerstogether.org

North Lanarkshire Carers Together is a campaigning organisation that gives carers a voice. Please get in touch with us, we want to hear your stories and represent your views in the planning and development of services, please contact enquiries@carerstogether.org

**Our office is open from Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm.
For information to help in your caring role call us on 01698 404055
or book an appointment at appointments@carerstogether.org**



In association with...



You can also view our newsletter at...

www.carerstogether.org

