



## **'Have Your Say' and AGM Event**

**Royal Marine Hotel, Hunter's Quay, Dunoon**

**10.30am to 3.30pm, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

10.00am **Registration & Refreshments**

10.30am **Welcome & Introductions**

- *Elizabeth McDade, Chair, Shared Care Scotland*

10.40am **Short Breaks and Respite Care: A Case of Rest and Be Thankful?**

- *Don Williamson, Chief Executive, Shared Care Scotland*

The need for improved short break and respite services has been top of the Carers agenda for a long time and now has strong Government support. Don's presentation will summarise the facts and figures relating to caring and respite provision in Scotland, and outline the policy developments that aim to give new shape and direction to how respite services are provided in the future.

11.00am **Improving Outcomes for Carers in Argyll and Bute**

- *Colin Bromley, Special Projects Officer, Argyll and Bute Council*

Improved support to vulnerable individuals and groups is a key commitment within Argyll and Bute community, health and social care plans. In relation to Carers, work is now underway to develop a new Carers Strategy for the area and identify improvements to short break and respite care provision. Colin's presentation will explain how this work is being taken forward, and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

11.30am **Dynamic Discussions!**

- *Small Groups*

With increasing pressure on public spending we need more than ever to ensure that available resources for short breaks and respite care are being used in the most effective ways. How do we do this? Where do we need to focus our efforts to achieve meaningful improvements in the quality and availability of respite? Leading on from the morning presentations, this is your opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on what can be done and...Have Your Say!

**...continued**

12.30pm **Lunch**

...plus visit the Drop In Area for information about local services and support for Carers - hosted by the Crossroads Carers Centre for Bute & Cowal and the Cowal Community Care Forum.

1.30pm **Annual General Meeting of Shared Care Scotland**

- *Meet the Directors of Shared Care Scotland and hear about our plans for the future*

As well as the formal (but brief) AGM business, we will also tell you a little about our plans for 2010-2011 and share some of the highlights from the previous year.

2.15pm **A Vision on the Water**

- *Jan Brown, Company Secretary, The Caliness Trust*

An exciting and ambitious project led by the Caliness Trust to build a boat and adventure holiday experience on the Caledonian Canal for groups with different abilities and their families and carers.

2.45pm **Open Space**

- *Chaired discussion*

Anything not been said or covered? Any views not heard? A final opportunity for some comment and debate ...finishing with our 'Breakthrough Manifesto' for change.

3.25pm **Closing Remarks**

- *Followed by coffee and biscuits. Stay for a chat if you can.*