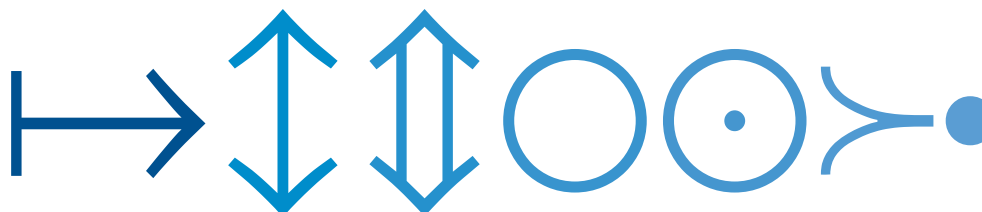


Primary and Community
Care Directorate
Community Care Division

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14th January 2010



Dear Colleague

A Carers Strategy for Scotland – Engagement Events

The Scottish Government, in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) is currently developing a new *Carers Strategy* for Scotland. This will build on progress since the publication of the *Care 21 Report; The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland*. The new *Carers Strategy*, which will also include specific sections relating to supporting Scotland's Young Carers, will be published in the first half of this year.

The development of the new *Carers Strategy* is being informed by a Carers Strategy Steering Group and a Young Carers Steering Group, both of which comprise a broad range of stakeholders including the National Carer Organisations. This work is also being reviewed by a Carers Reference Group, involving carers from a range of caring backgrounds and locations across Scotland.

More information on the development of the *Carers Strategy* can be found at our web-pages at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/Strategy/Carer> .

To further inform the development of the new *Carers Strategy* the Scottish Government, in conjunction with the Coalition of Carers in Scotland and local carer organisations, is hosting four events in February and March 2010. Each event will cover both carer and young carer issues.

These events will provide an opportunity for carers, local authorities, health professionals, voluntary sector partners and others to hear more about the development of the *Carers Strategy* and the priorities that have been identified, which the strategy will seek to address. We are looking for a wide cross-section of people to attend from all caring backgrounds and from all levels within relevant organisations.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk



Importantly, these events will provide an opportunity for a wider group of stakeholders to inform the development of the new *Carers Strategy*, to ensure that it reflects and address carers' and young carers' priorities and that it takes into account the views of carers and young carers themselves, as well as support organisations and service providers.

The details of these events are as follows;

DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
23 Feb. 2010	Dundee	Central Baptist Church 9a Ward Road Dundee DD1 1LP
25 Feb. 2010	Melrose	The Buccleuch Arms Hotel St Boswells Melrose TD6 0EW
2 March 2010	Inverness	Inshes Church Sir Walter Scott Drive Inverness IV2 3TW
4 March 2010	Glasgow	The Thistle Hotel Cambridge Street Glasgow G2 3HN

We would be grateful for your views on the key issues affecting carers and on the priorities that the new *Carers Strategy* should address and we hope that you will be able to attend one of these four events. To apply to attend please complete the attached booking form.

If you are not in a position to attend, but would wish to contribute to the development of the *Carers Strategy*, we would be pleased to hear your views and suggestions. Please email these to Carers.Strategy@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely

Moira Oliphant
Team Leader
Carers Policy Branch
The Scottish Government