

Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2007

PRESS RELEASE

IS SCOTLAND CARING FOR IT'S UNPAID CARERS?

Scotland's unpaid carers contribute £5.3 billion worth of care – more than half the entire budget of Scotland's NHS. This is why Scotland's carer organisations have launched Scotland's Carer Manifesto 2007, calling on all political parties to increase their investment in carers, in recognition of the growing contribution that Scotland's 480,000 unpaid carers make to society.

Almost 10% of the Scottish population care, without pay, for a family member, partner or friend. 115,000 of carers provide over 50 hours of care a week. A significant proportion of these, over 17,000, are young carers.

Lack of support forces an increasing number of people to give up caring. 1 in 5 carers suffer from poor health and carers are a third are more likely to become permanently sick or disabled than people with no caring responsibilities. Yet 39% of carers have not had a break from their caring responsibilities lasting longer than two days.

Scotland's Carers Manifesto calls for political parties to support a range of measures including:

- an additional investment of £135 million each year to increase availability and access to breaks from caring.
- the allocation of an additional £10 million to carer organisations to provide practical and emotional support to carers.
- investment in training for carers to support them in their caring role, to protect their health and wellbeing and to allow them to develop their potential and live a fulfilling life outside of caring.
- investment in dedicated services to support Scotland's 17,000 young carers.

The press launch of Scotland's Carers Manifesto will take place in Edinburgh 21st March, 11.30am at the top of Carlton Hill. Carers will be making an oversized statement on "Edinburgh's Shame" about Scotland's shame – the treatment of carers.

For further information please visit www.scotlandscarersmanifesto.com

ENDS

For further information please contact Kirsty Leiper at Great Circle

t: 0131 225 4646

e: kirsty.leiper@greatcircle.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Images and interviews are available.

CARERS Scotland
the voice of carers

 **coalition**
of carers in Scotland

Crossroads Caring Scotland
Practical support for Scotland's Carers


The Princess Royal Trust
for Carers


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