

# Elections 2007

## Taking action – writing to candidates

### Scottish Parliamentary Candidates

Below is an example letter to send to candidates in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections.

Your name  
Your address

Date

Dear Candidate

#### **Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2007**

I am writing, as on one of XXXXX unpaid carers in your constituency, to seek your support of Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2007.

I care for [use this space to give some background on your caring situation].

I have been a carer for XX years and caring has had a significant impact on my life. [use this space to give details of the impact caring has had on your life e.g. you have given up work, you live on benefits, your health has been affected].

The Carers Manifesto calls for all candidates to support investment in unpaid carers, giving all carers a right to:

- ✓ good health
- ✓ regular and appropriate breaks from caring
- ✓ access to appropriate support
- ✓ access to carer training
- ✓ live free of poverty with opportunities to work and take part in lifelong learning, and
- ✓ for every child and young person with caring responsibilities to have the right to be a child.

I think you will agree that these are rights that every citizen in Scotland should be able to expect and I would ask for your support in this election and, if elected, in the work of the Scottish Parliament to make these a reality for myself and all of Scotland's 480,000 carers.

Yours sincerely

[your name]

## **Local Council Candidates**

Below is an example letter to send to candidates in the Local Council elections

Your name  
Your address

Date

Dear Candidate

### **Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2007**

I am writing, as on one of XXXXX unpaid carers in your local authority area, to seek your support of Scotland's Carers Manifesto 2007.

I care for [use this space to give some background on your caring situation].

I have been a carer for XX years and caring has had a significant impact on my life. [use this space to give details of the impact caring has had on your life e.g. you have given up work, you live on benefits, your health has been affected].

The Carers Manifesto calls for all local and national government to support investment in unpaid carers, giving all carers a right to:

- ✓ good health
- ✓ regular and appropriate breaks from caring
- ✓ access to appropriate support
- ✓ access to carer training
- ✓ live free of poverty with opportunities to work and take part in lifelong learning, and
- ✓ for every child and young person with caring responsibilities to have the right to be a child.

I think you will agree that these are rights that every citizen should be able to expect but for many carers the reality is very different.

Although national government have a significant role in providing investment to support for carers, local government has a vital role to play in ensuring that local services are available, effective and responsive to the needs of carers.

I hope that you will highlight the rights of carers in your election campaign and, if elected, advocate for investment and services that provide effective and appropriate support for carers in our Council.

Yours sincerely

[your name]