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Scottish Charity No
SCO 23986

Welcome to the Winter edition of our Newsletter. We can hardly believe this is the last Newsletter of the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to celebrate our 20th Anniversary at Paisley Town Hall on 26th August. All the photos are on the website www.renfrewshirecarers.org.uk and we have included a selection of the photos below.

During October and November we had a few events including the Carer's Forum and the Social Security Consultation and coming up is Carers Rights Day and of course our Annual Carers Christmas Lunch.

20th Anniversary Party

Our evening of celebration was a huge success. Provost Anne Hall kicked off the night with her tribute to the Centre; followed by Stephen McGinty who was involved with the Centre from the beginning. Clyde One's DJ George Bowie was then on to warm up the crowd and introduced the Young Carers who performed their version of TV's Take Me Out. Provost Hall then presented staff with long service awards and the Choir sang a few songs including an Abba hit which they had amended the lyrics as a thank you to the Centre. DJ Duncan Gilmour played disco hits from the past 20 years before the buffet was served and the cake was cut. Staff also presented the Centre Manager Diane with flowers and bubbles to say thank you for all she has done for them over the years of managing the Centre.



Staff with Provost Anne Hall & DJ George Bowie



Special Thanks
Provost Anne Hall
Stephen McGinty
Cupcake Dream Events
Greggs and McHargs Bakers

DJ George Bowie
Art Cake Boutique
Artemis Flowers
Caledonia Caterers

DJ Duncan Gilmour
Studio Masina
Tracy Thomson & Lorna

The Food Train
Cards by Dezin

Social Security Consultation

The Centre recently organised a session with the new Scottish Government Minister for Social Security Jeanne Freeman, looking at the plan to devolve powers over aspects of social security to Scotland. The well attended event took place on 10th November.

The Minister emphasised that the underpinning principles of a new Social Security system in Scotland will be to treat everyone with dignity, fairness and respect. Only 15% of the total benefits budget will be devolved to Scotland but this is the first time.



Jeanne Freeman

Scotland will be establishing a public service from scratch and the Scottish Government is committed to getting it right.

The Scottish Government is consulting extensively, looking at designing and building the new system with claimants, those who have expertise in the system, for example, welfare rights workers and those who have experience of delivering payments.

The Minister acknowledged the unfairness of Carers Allowance – the low earnings disregard, the 21 hour rule for education and the fact that Carers must be caring for 35 hours or more a week to be eligible. She acknowledged that these restrictions make it difficult for carers to pursue work and education, to have a life of their own. She also mentioned the financial challenges which Carers face when caring ends and Carers Allowance stops.

The Minister spoke of the need to share information with people's permission to prevent families having to struggle to find medical evidence as they currently do – and also to ensure that families don't have to disclose the same information again and again. The Government is committed to setting up user or experience panels to work with Ministers and officials to shape the detail of the new system. These will involve 2,000 people who currently receive benefits and other relevant groups. Please see our website for feedback from Carers from the Consultation.

After the Minister left, carers discussed problems with the current system and changes they would like to see which, will be fed back to the minister. For more information on the debate check the centres website news section at www.renfrewshirecarers.org.uk.

NEW STAFF IN THE CENTRE

The Centre is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Big Lottery over 5 years with match funding from Renfrewshire Council to provide a holistic approach to carers support – providing intensive support to carers who are new to caring and help them develop coping strategies to assist them throughout their caring journey. The role of our new team will be varied but every new carer will get home visit or meeting in the Centre, have benefits checked, information on Power of Attorney/Guardianship, support to access services, put emergency care plans in place, emotional support and to think about their own wellbeing. Support will be tailored made to meet carer's individual needs.

The Adult Support Workers Team will be made up of Adult Support Workers: Susan McRoberts, Caroline Quinn, Anne Spiers, Annmarie McGlynn & Liz Smith. Wellbeing Worker: Louise Anderson and Receptionist/Administrator, Janice Tiffney.

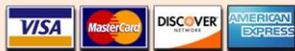
Susan, Louise, Caroline, Anne, Janice (left to right)

**Consultation on Ward 15, Royal Alexandra Hospital
Tell us what you think**

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are proposing to move Ward 15 to the Royal Hospital for Children. This means that they would treat children requiring inpatient care, day surgery, and short stay medical assessment in the new Royal Hospital for Children in Govan instead of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

To find out more about the proposal, ask any questions or say what you think about it, visit <http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/inform-engage-consult/clydepaediatric> or contact Rachel Killick, Patient Experience Public Involvement Manager on 0141 201 0309 or by emailing public.involvement@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

FUNDRAISING



Fundraising Zip Slide

Provost Anne Hall and Renfrewshire Carers Centre staff and Young Adult Carers took part in a **fundraising zip slide** across East End Park on 3rd September 2016. The amount raised shall be split between the Provosts four chosen local charities.



Looking to make a donation to the Centre at Christmas?

Please remember we now have the facility to make a donation online via our website – if you scroll to the bottom of the home page you will see a DONATE NOW button. All donations will be greatly appreciated and the Centre will be able to claim gift aid on all donations.

Quilting

Special thanks to Grace Lindsay who hand quilts for the Centre to raise funds at Xmas. Grace has donated the items such as Xmas stockings, table runners advent calendars.



Look out for all the quilting raffles – tickets will be sold until our Carers Xmas Lunch on 15th December when we will draw the raffle.

Donation Plea

We are holding a raffle for a Christmas Hamper again this year and are looking for donations of tins, bottles etc. Please hand items into Reception before Monday 12th December. Thanks in advance.



We currently hold a Stroke Support Group at Northcroft Medical Centre; unfortunately it been very poorly attended lately so following up on discussions with Maureen Hunter from The Stroke Association, we have decided to jointly run a pilot joint support group from January 2017. Both the carer and cared for are welcome to attend where everyone will meet together for the first hour and Carers shall be given the opportunity to meet separately. We shall trial this at the Embroidery Mill for 6 months starting on **Monday 9th January from 1-3pm.**

Smart Meter

Carers Scotland has partnered with Smart Energy **meter** rollout across Scotland - in particular to raise awareness of and promote the advantages of smart meters to carers. Every home in Scotland will be offered a smart meter by their energy supplier, **free of charge**, between now and 2020, replacing old gas and electricity meters.



Below is a link to a webpage with more information on what a smart meter is, how to get one and why carers should be interested in getting one. At a time when 77% of carers face higher utility bills and are more likely to slip into fuel poverty, smart meters could really help save carers money and allow them to see if they (or their loved ones) are eligible for grants, subsidies or support.

<http://www.carersuk.org/scotland/training-resources/technology/smart-meters>

Creative Breaks 2016/17

Time to Live Fund

Have you applied for your grant yet?

Carers (who are caring for someone over the age of 21 and who have not had a respite break for two years) can apply by completing the application form.

You can be awarded a Grant up to £300 for a respite break of your choice. 49 carers received grants during 2015/16 to allow them to go on a spa day or have a weekend in Blackpool; some carers also purchased an Ipad; it's your choice!

Please, please apply - if you need help of advice on completing the application please contact us!!

Deadlines for 2016/16

Round 2	Friday 20 th January 2017
Round 3	Friday 24 th March 2017
Round 4	Friday 19 th May 2017



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas with best wishes for 2017 from all the staff, board and volunteers.



Carers Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15th December

12.30-2.30pm

Cost is £10 per person

3 courses and a glass of wine/soft drink

RSVP

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Over the years Carers have purchased one of our bricks which are displayed in the centre and on our website.

BUY A BRICK to remember someone you've lost, to celebrate a special occasion, anniversary, birth of a child, or as a gift for someone.

Application forms are on the website and donations can be made online via the DONATE button.



Carers (Alternative) Xmas Party

"Tinsel, Tartan & Tapas" (Scottish)

Fri 27 January 2017

7.30pm-11pm

£3 buffet BYOB - RSVP

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Centre Closes Friday 23rd December at 2pm
Reopening on Thursday 5th January at 10am

Telephone Helpline Hours During Festive Closure

Wednesday 28 th December	2.00-4.00pm
Friday 30 th December	2.00-4.00pm
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	2.00-4.00pm



Emergency Numbers

Renfrewshire Council Social Work Department	0300 300 1199
Renfrewshire Council Main Switchboard	0300 300 0330
NHS 24	111
Emergency home repairs (24 hours)	0300 300 0300
Antisocial Behaviour (9am - 10pm)	0300 300 0380

