**Agenda Carers Panel 20.6.24**

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| **Jess report** | No questions were raised during the meeting but this agenda point was missed during the meeting. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions via email also. |
| All | **Carers Week feedback**Feedback provided to carers panel similar to staff team as below.* 12 events ran.
* 106 carers attended the events.
* 7 volunteers supported the events to run.
* 7 carers shared their stories.
* The Courier and Radio Saltire supported us to promote the events and raise the profile of unpaid care.
* One event was run entirely by a Carers Panel member along with his family members and friends.
* 2 musicians donated their time and skills, North Berwick Rugby donated their venue,  East Lothian Council plant nursery donated 19 hanging baskets and materials, The Marine donated vouchers for 20 people to enjoy their facilities, Dunbar Garden Centre donated 40 hot drinks, Foxlake donated entry to 16 carers, JayBirds Larder donated refreshments to 16 carers (much of this is down to the panel).
* 9 carers were rolling on the floor laughing in Cockenzie on Friday.
* Many of us forgot our tissues on Thursday for the film! (wonderful choice Suzie)!
* We showcased amazing photographs, arts and craft works all made by carers.
* The Chief Officer of ELHSCP celebrated carers in a video on Sunday. You can view this here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/p3snM75n5gnLiQdd/>
* Our social media content was viewed over 16,000 times last week!!

Members made suggestions for areas for enhancement next year. Members asked about attendance and discussed management of spaces for sessions. Members felt overall that week had a good reach and met the needs of different groups of carers. RG to connect Gemma with NB in Bloom. Agreement to bring Carers Panel to the agenda in Feb 25 once again. Discussed uplift in budget allocation for Carers Week 24. Discussed importance of their feedback. Shared that a survey has been sent to participants for consideration when planning 25. Gemma thanked panel for all of their input into an excellent Carers Week. |
| **Gemma** | **National Carers Organisation Election Manifesto for unpaid carers** Shared the following information with members:The National Carer Organisations (NCOs) have released their 2024 General Election Manifesto, advocating for Scotland’s 800,000 unpaid carers.With Scotland’s unpaid carers contributing an estimated £13.1 billion annually in unpaid care, this Manifesto emphasises the need for increased support and recognition and calls on the next UK Government to take specific actions:* Increase funding for social care to ensure sustainability and quality local care services
* Commit to increasing the Carer Premium and Carer Element in Universal Credit
* Provide additional financial support to unpaid carers of State Pension age
* Change the social security system to better support carers to remain in work
* Build on the Carer’s Leave Act and implement paid carers leave
* Amend the Equalities Act 2010 to include caring as the 10th protected characteristic.

List of questions for candidates: * What is your party doing to support unpaid carers?
* What is your party doing for working carers and unpaid carers who want to return to the workplace?
* How does your party plan to support unpaid carers financial to get them out of poverty?
* What is your party doing to resource and improve social care to ensure unpaid carers can get a break from caring?
* *Carers Scotland.*
* *Carers Trust Scotland.*
* *Coalition of Carers in Scotland.*
* *MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project)*
* *Shared Care Scotland.*
* *The Scottish Young Carers Service Alliance.*

*Election Hustings* The Health and Social Care Alliance, in partnership with the National Carer Organisations have organised an online Hustings meeting for Tuesday 25 June from 10.30 – 12.00If you would like to submit a question….Members requested that this information was resent via email. Done so immediately following the meeting.  |
| Gemma | Issue 2 CoEL newsletterMembers provided feedback on issue 1 of newsletter. Gave several suggestions to improve dissemination (including GP surgeries to print themselves and Connected Communities – RG to connect G). Members invited to submit interest piece.  |
| Gemma | Carer stories / social media/ websiteShared with members the incredible reach of the carers stories on social media and website and thanked those who participated.  |
| IIA attendees | Attendees provided a summary of involvement at IIA.  |
| Gemma | ELHSCP Charging groupELHSCP are looking for active members for the social care charging group. Charges were increased by 10% in 2023 for Frozen meals, resource centre attendance, transport and for self-funders within ELC own residential care homes. Further uplift occurred in 24 (please see letter attached that was sent out to around 126 people who pay for their social care services, and similar to around 2000 people who have community alarms in April. Changes came into effect at the start of June). Gemma brought this to the attention of the panel in case anyone is interested in joining the charging group as a Carer Representative.A member came forward and said that they may be able to be involved if no one else could do so but later were informed that previous member would be continuing their involvement. Suggestion made to involve panel member in handover capacity. This was not taken forwards. |
| Whole panel discussion | Advancing the panel's work on influencing information for carers through GP'sDue to time restrictions, a very short discussion took place where panel decided next course of action should be to research in more detail what they wish to improve about information in GP surgeries for carers. Members were tasked with visiting their GP surgery to explore what the experience of a carer may be. Panel will feedback in August meeting as a starting point for making a case for change.  |