

Annual Report

2016 – 2017



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Fife Carers Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status
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The work of Fife Carers Centre is supported by:



Convenor's Remarks

In the first year since I became Convenor I would like to offer a sincere thank you to everyone involved both Staff and Board Members, for all their hard work which has resulted in yet another very successful year.

There have been some changes throughout the last year. Mhairi Edgar was first co-opted as a Director in May and then on 18th November became a full director. Existing co-opted directors – Shirlee Baird, Franki Campbell and Robin Mc Alpine became full directors on 28th May.

In November at the AGM we received resignations from our Convenor Helen Guild and two other longstanding Board Members – Jean Inches and Dawn Norton who between them held a magnitude of historical knowledge. Following on from these resignations I was then appointed Convenor with Franki Campbell being Vice Convenor.

There have also been changes in our staff as Irene Jones left her post as Receptionist and Admin assistant after several years and was then replaced in January by Ros Hughes. Helen McFadden filled a new post as Co-ordinator for the new Befriending Project.

In addition to the ever increasing workload executed by Mhairi and all staff this has been negotiated throughout the installation of new windows and doors which have provided a more comfortable working environment for all concerned. There are also ongoing refurbishments to enable more use to be made of the upstairs rooms.

Following our award of the PQASSO quality mark in the previous year we were awarded the additional Carers Trust quality award from Carers Trust in October 2015.

Thanks once again to everyone involved in contributing to the success of the Fife Carers Centre.

**Eileen Brand, Convenor
9 November 2016**

Financial Update

The annual accounts to 31 March 2016 were approved by the Board at its meeting on 18 August 2016.

The net (expenditure) for the year was (£10,015) compared to net income of £68 in the prior year. The balance sheet remained strong with net assets of £438,996 compared to £449,011 in the prior year

The Independent Examiner signed the accounts on 19 August 2016, without any need to bring any matter to anybody's attention.

Total incoming resources for the year totalled £315,203 compared to £291,315 in the prior year. This comprised:-

	2016 £	2015 £
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>		
Donations	5,473	2,968
Fife Council – core	66,659	65,674
NHS Fife – core	80,612	79,814
Earned income	3,511	3,998
<u>Restricted funds</u>		
Big Lottery funding	101,921	96,931
Grants for specific carers	1,090	4,552
NHS Fife – Carer Information Strategy	41,824	34,128
NHS Fife – Therapies	2,000	-
Fife Health and Wellbeing	12,113	3,250
Total Incoming Resources	<u>315,203</u>	<u>291,315</u>

Unrestricted funds are receipts that are available for the organisation to use towards any purpose, but usually for operating expenses. Restricted funds are receipts which require that the funds are used in a specific way or for a specific purpose.

The application for Big Lottery continuation funding highlighted in the Financial Update last year was thankfully successful. Big Lottery now advance money for six monthly periods in advance. The first instalment for this continuation funding which is for two years was made in May 2016 totalling £62,932.

Ian Donaldson, Treasurer
24 October 2016

Activity Report

As in recent years the Carers Centre has been busy with an increase in the number of carers using our service for the first time. In the year up to 31st March 2016 we helped 1241 carers new to our service as well as 537 carers who had used our service previously.

Welfare rights continue to be one of the main reasons that carers contact us in the first instance. We helped carers and those they care for claim benefits to the value of £1,072,839 within the year. A further £11,384 was raised in the form of grants for carers.

After 8 years the Moving and Handling Project, which was a needs based information and training project for family carers a joint initiative with ourselves, PAMIS and Health and Social Work was wound up due to lack of resources to fully implement the project.

We were successful in securing funding from the Health and Social Care integration partnership to set up a Befriending Project to assist and support carers who have become isolated through their caring role. The aim of the project is for the befrienders to work with carers to regain and develop their confidence and skills to be able to be more active within their communities. The Project Co-ordinator, Helen McFadden, joined us in November 2015, bringing the staff team up to eleven. She has been busy recruiting and training volunteers and starting to match them up with carers referred to her service. In February 2016 we were thrilled to be awarded continuation funding from Big Lottery for a further 2 years. This will give us time to plan how best to develop our service, and seek funding to do this, for the coming years. This work includes our workshop programme for carers as well as staff and workplace training, raising awareness of carers to workers whose jobs bring them in contact with carers. We ran 18 workshops and a mini conference for carers throughout the year on various topics, with a total of 255 carers attending these. We were also involved with putting on three information events for carers, funded by Carers Information Strategy, in Dunfermline and Glenrothes, which were well received and something we would hope to repeat in the future. Carers Rights and Carer involvement in service planning and delivery is integral to the work of the Centre.

We were asked to identify a Carers Representative to sit on the Integrated Joint Board. We undertook a recruitment drive contacting over 1000 carers asking if they were interested in this position. Briefing sessions and interviews followed until we identified 2 carers to share the role, to take up their seat on the Board from April 2016.

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in February 2016. This Act aims to ensure Scotland's carers are better supported on a more consistent basis so they can continue to care. Although implementation will not be until 2018 it gives us an opportunity to work with our partners to ensure that carers in Fife are fully supported in the future.

Mhairi Lochhead
1 November 2016