Launch of Strategic Plan 2010-2012

Mission Statement

Care Alliance Ireland exists to enhance the quality of life for Family Carers. We will achieve this by supporting organisations in their direct work with Family Carers through the provision of information, research, the sharing of resources and opportunities for collaboration.

The 3rd November 2009 marks a special day in the history of Care Alliance Ireland. Following lengthy discussion and debate by the Board and following consultation with our member organisations, a three year Strategic Plan has been produced. The plan is supported by specific action points and has been fully costed. Implementation of the plan has already begun.

Speaking at the launch of the plan, Colum Conway, Chair of Care Alliance Ireland, paid tribute to the work of the board, member organisations, staff and our external facilitator Caroline Egan (Training and Development Manager, The Carmichael Centre).

The plan identified a clear vision and mission for the organisation.

Vision

That the role of Family Carers is fully recognised and valued by society in Ireland.

The Strategic Plan has been circulated to all members and other stakeholders and is available to view on our website

www.carealliance.ie
Care Alliance Ireland and
The Carers Association in Joint Submission

Following the announcement by the Government of the development of a National Positive Ageing Strategy, both organisations recently made a joint submission to the Office for Older People.

Commenting on the submission, Colum Conway, Chair of Care Alliance Ireland said that, “as the benefits of collaboration become clearer to all stakeholders and in the context of a changed economic situation, the joint submission represents an example of how the Family Carer sector can make maximum use of its limited resources, pool its knowledge and expertise and, above all, present a unified voice to the key policy makers in areas of relevance to Family Carers.”

Frank Goodwin, Chair of The Carers Association has also welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with Care Alliance stating that the joint submission to the National Positive Ageing Strategy ‘is an important step in developing and articulating a cohesive sector response from a Carer’s perspective. This is especially important at a time when demographic predictions suggest that Ireland’s older population will increase significantly over the coming years. In this context, it is imperative that organisations supporting older people and their carers work cohesively to create a society in which the independence and dignity of every older citizen is assured.

Issues covered by the submission included:

- The prevalence of and key issues affecting older Family Carers
- The need for regulation of Home Care
- The importance of protecting existing supports to Family Carers, particularly in the context of the cost-benefit advantage of Home Care/Family care provision as compared to institutional care.
- The folly of delaying the publication of the National Carers’ Strategy, particularly in light of how intertwined it is with any Positive Ageing Strategy.
- The benefits to all of Carers needs assessments.

The submission used the 1991 United Nations Principles for Older Persons in identifying key issues that require attention. These key principles cover the areas of Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfilment and Dignity.

To read the submission in full, see: Submission_to_NPAS_-The_Carers_Association_and_Care_Alliance_IrelandFinal2.pdf

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BRÍ national event for people with ABI and partners/friends/carers

Are you in your 20s or 30s? Do you have an Acquired Brain Injury or are you a partner/friend/carer. BRÍ is hosting a national event on 28th November in Cork City for people with ABI and partners/friends/carers. There will be separate activities for attendees. The focus for the ABI group is relationships — how to develop and maintain relationships. The focus for partners/friends/carers of a person with a

ABI. will include pampering and guest speakers. This event is free and runs from 11-5pm followed by evening meal at 6pm. Numbers are limited so book early.

If you would like further information on this event contact:
Ned at 086/3821033.
or
ned@briireland.ie
The number of people with dementia and Alzheimer’s will nearly double every 20 years, to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050, according to the 2009 World Alzheimer’s Report. More than 35 million people worldwide will have dementia in 2010. The new report is released on 21 September, which is World Alzheimer’s Day.

The 2009 report, published by Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), was prepared by a research team headed by Professor Martin Prince from the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London. It covers the global prevalence of dementia, the impact of dementia worldwide, and a detailed analysis of the challenges faced by governments and healthcare systems worldwide.

The updated figures for the numbers of people with dementia worldwide represent a 10 per cent increase over the previous global dementia prevalence reported in 2005 in The Lancet. This change is driven mainly by new information from recent studies in low and middle income countries.

Increases over the next 40 years in the number of people with dementia will be much steeper in low and middle compared with high income countries. As a consequence, while the researchers found that 57.7 per cent of people with dementia in 2010 live in low and middle income countries, this will rise to 70.5 per cent by 2050.

The 2009 World Alzheimer’s Report

The costs of caring

The report highlights that, among older people, dementia makes the largest contribution of any of the chronic diseases to disability and needs for care. The need for long-term care is the main driver for the societal cost of dementia, estimated at $315 billion per year worldwide. In high income countries, the cost of community care and of supporting people in care homes accounts for a large proportion.

‘In all world regions family carers subsidise society through their unpaid contributions, while themselves incurring costs due to lost opportunities to work, and hiring additional paid carers.’

Professor Martin Prince comments: ‘Caring is a full time job – an average of around eight hours per day for a relative with moderate to severe dementia. In all parts of the world, carers, who are most commonly female and the spouses or children of the persons with dementia, often experience high levels of strain. Studies reviewed in the new report suggest that half to three quarters of carers have significant psychological illness, while up to a third have clinical depression. While these numbers are staggering, the current investment in research, treatment and care is actually quite disproportionate to the overall impact of the disease on people with dementia, their carers, on health and social care systems, and on society.

Marc Wortmann, ADI’s Executive Director, adds: ‘The crisis of dementia and Alzheimer’s can no longer be ignored. Unchecked, Alzheimer’s will impose enormous burdens on individuals, families, health care infrastructures, and the global economy. There is hope yet, if action is taken now to fund improvements in dementia care services, and to increase investment in research. Australia, France, Korea and England have developed national Alzheimer’s action plans, and several more are currently in development.’

In order to tackle the challenges faced by governments and healthcare systems worldwide, the report offers eight global recommendations based on the findings. Crucially:

- The World Health Organisation, and governments worldwide, need to declare dementia a global health priority.
- Awareness raising is needed worldwide.
- High income countries should be aiming for comprehensive, integrated, high quality services, meeting the needs of patients and carers at all stages of the illness.
- In low and middle income countries the focus should be upon first strengthening the capacity of primary care to diagnose and treat dementia, and to provide long term advice and support to carers.

For copies of the World Alzheimer’s Report summary contact:
antonina.surdi@kcl.ac.uk or louise.a.pratt@kcl.ac.uk
Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College London Tel: +44 (0)207 848 5377/8

Care Alliance Ireland Exchange
The Battle at Croker

Come and see ‘White Collar Boxers’ swap their office chair for the thrill of the boxing ring on Friday 13th November in the Hogan Suite at Croke Park.

The Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association is proud to present our everyday heroes and heroines — over 30 in total — who have volunteered to take part in a six-week intensive boxing training course and then perform for three rounds in the ring.

Training is provided by Irish boxing legend, Olympic gold medalist Michael Carruth.

This promises to be an exciting fun-filled night, featuring special guests from the sporting world and the chance to win fantastic prizes from the raffle on the night.

Please help us and join the fight against MND by purchasing your tickets for this event. Tickets are available now from our website www.imnda.ie for only €25 per person.

Doors open at 7.30pm.
Round one, first fight at 8.15pm.

For enquiries, more information or if you would prefer to purchase tickets over the phone please contact the IMNDA on Freephone: 1800 403 403 or email fundraising@imnda.ie and we will be happy to help.

Eurocarers Autumn Seminar

‘A Future for Care: A Future for Carers in Europe’

Brussels, 16th November 2009

A seminar for National Carer NGOs within the EU, Central and Eastern Europe; EU Officials and Pan European Social/Health NGOs

Purpose

• To bring together the leading Family Carer Non-Governmental Organisations operating in Europe to consider and reflect on the latest developments in Family Carer issues

• To facilitate dialogue and exchange of views on Family Carer issues between NGOs, EU officials and other stakeholders

• To launch the updated resource: Carers in Europe

• To communicate the priorities of Eurocarers over the coming years

Speakers include:

Sebastian Fischer, CEO, VOCAL, Scotland — Developments in National Carer Organisations

Dr. Giovanni Lamura, Vice-President — Research, Eurocarers — Developments in Carer Policy in the EU

Christine Marking, Policy Advisor to Eurocarers — EU Policy: Entry Points for Carers

For more information contact; the Seminar Administrator at: eurocarerseminar09@gmail.com
Dementia Services Information & Development Centre
promoting best practice in dementia care
DSIDC AUTUMN CONFERENCE
DEMENTIA AND REHABILITATION
Challenges And Opportunities For Health Care Professionals

Thursday 26 November 2009
Trinity Sciences Centre, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8

The DSIDC Autumn Conference will explore a broad range of issues in relation to Dementia and Rehabilitation. With many expert national and international speakers and facilitated workshops, it will be of interest to those who support people with dementia in any context, including health care professionals from the public, private and voluntary sectors. People with dementia and their carers are also welcome.

- Standard fee €75.00
- Person with dementia and / or their carer €50.00
- Conference fees include pack, teas & coffees and light lunch.

For information and booking form please visit www.dementia.ie or call 01 4162035

CARERS WEEK
14th to 20th June 2010

Plans for Carers Week 2010 are currently being formalised with the Partner Organisations. With over 100 events held during Carers Week 2009 the plan is to build on this momentum and make Carers Week 2010 bigger, with more events for Family Carers.

For a list of events held during 2009 please see the Carers Week website at www.carersweek.ie

If you would like to host an event in Carers Week 2010, please contact Esther: admin@carersweek.ie
The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of more than 45,000 individuals aged 50 or over.

Eleven countries contributed data to the 2004 SHARE baseline study. Ireland, along with the Czech Republic and Poland, joined SHARE in 2006 and participated in the second wave of data collection. The findings for Ireland’s wave one participation were released in October 2008, and can be viewed on the SHARE Ireland website.

Twelve months on, Ireland (along with 15 other countries) is participating in the survey’s third round of research - SHARELIFE. SHARELIFE is a retrospective life history study covering issues of health, employment, housing, family and relationships. It is designed to link individual micro data over the life course with institutional macro data on the welfare state, thereby facilitating the assessment of the full effect of welfare state interventions on the life of the individual.

Of particular interest to you/your organisation may be data relating to health and health care, particularly comparative physical health, health care expenditure and health care utilisation of older Europeans’, and social and family context, including family structure and support.

For further information on SHARE, news and data access, please visit our website: http://geary.ucd.ie/share

Elder Abuse Presentations

The presentations from the Age Action/SPARC Conference on 26th June 2009 (Protecting Older Adults: Interweaving Responses to Elder Abuse) are now available to view on the SPARC website.

www.sparc.tcd.ie/newsAndEvents/index.php
The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), which is led by Trinity College Dublin, aims to help Ireland cope with issues which the country will face as people live longer. It will explore various aspects of life of 8,000 people in Ireland as they grow older, and observe how their circumstances change over a ten-year period.

Some of the questions TILDA will answer are:

- How do our health and level of disability change over time?
- What happens to our memory as we age?
- What are the factors that determine when we retire?
- How do our activities, relationships and quality of life change over time?
- What is the relationship between our health status, economic situation and social circumstances?
- What are the factors that determine successful ageing?

Starting in September 2009, randomly selected people aged 50 or over (and their spouses of any age) will be canvassed to participate in the survey, which includes a face-to-face questionnaire, a self-completion questionnaire and a health assessment. Participants will have a follow-up interview every two years and health assessment every three to four years for a ten-year period.

The study participants will help gather important information for addressing the problems that arise with higher longevity.

TILDA is funded by the Department of Health & Children, Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Life.

(US) Social Work Leadership Institute's Evidence Database

The New York Academy of Medicine's Social Work Leadership Institute (SWLI) has released a new evidence database to support ageing research. This is an easy-to-use online database to help scholars, policy analysts, and advocates stay on top of the latest research and innovations in ageing care, including health care, social services, and workforce issues. The Evidence Database is regularly updated by a professional staff of contributors that filters, reviews, and catalogues articles published in professional journals both in the U.S. and abroad. An advisory committee of experts in gerontology, social work research, and database methods provides consultation and assistance in the selection of topics for inclusion in the database.

To view this database, visit:

http://socialworkleadership.org/nsw/cap/search.php
Care Alliance Ireland is the National Network of Voluntary Organisations supporting Family Carers.

Our vision is that the role of Family Carers is fully recognised and valued by society in Ireland.

We exist to enhance the quality of life for Family Carers. We will achieve this by supporting organisations in their work with Family Carers through the provision of information, research, the sharing of resources and opportunities for collaboration.

Care Alliance Ireland was established in 1995 and our membership currently includes over 65 voluntary organisations concerned with the needs of Family Carers.

To find out more about Care Alliance, please visit our website www.carealliance.ie or contact us by at:

Tel: 01-8747776   E-mail: info@carealliance.ie

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