

## **Scottish Executive response to the Care 21 Report**

Many of you will be among the large number of carers in Fife who took part in the Care 21 survey and will remember that it was one of the most extensive pieces of research about carers ever to take place. The Office of Public Management, the firm that undertook the work, prepared a comprehensive report, which was submitted to the Scottish Executive.

The Care 21 report had 22 recommendations and importantly the Scottish Executive did not disagree with any of them. The Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, Lewis Macdonald, gave his response on the 24th April and made a point of recognising the contribution which unpaid carers make to the provision and quality of care in Scotland. He said; “Unpaid care is likely to grow in importance as people live longer and receive more care at home. The quality of support we give to family carers is therefore crucial”.

The Scottish Executive has identified four main areas of the report that they see as priorities. These are young carers, respite, carers’ health and carers’ training. They are going to establish a task group to look at how they tackle the issues for young carers. They are also going to establish a task group to look at respite and you can be sure that we will be feeding our ideas to the members of these task groups.

The Scottish Executive have given an enhanced incentive to GP practices to identify a named person with responsibility for carer identification, set up carer registers and refer carers to local support. They have also made carer training an important element of NHS Carer Information strategies, which every Health Board has to have in place by the 31st October.

As usual there are very few things that are going to make a big difference to carers’ lives right away but this is an important time for carers and there is no doubt that people are taking account of carers’ needs in a way that they have never done before. If you get the opportunity, remind your MSP about what you are having to cope with and ask them for their support. Also remind the staff at your GP practice about Carers Information Strategies and the enhanced incentive for carers. The Scottish Executive have a big spending review scheduled for next year and it is important that we keep up the pressure to have carers seen as a priority. Everyone here at the Fife Carers Centre will be doing their best to remind the world about carers and their need for support but remember the voices of carers themselves carry the most weight.

The above document was taken from the Fife Carers Centre website  
[www.fifecarerscentre.org.uk](http://www.fifecarerscentre.org.uk)