Care Alliance Ireland

Introduction to our Research

April 22 2015, Eurocarers Research Meeting, Dublin
• Research a key element of the Care Alliance Ireland (CAI) Strategic Plan for 2014-2017
  • **Priority 3 of 4**: “Supporting primary and applied research on Family Caring and the role of Family Carers.”
  • CAI aim to be thought leaders in family carer issues, and to act as a connector in the sector
  • Focus on bridging research-policy-practice gap

• **Multiple aspects of CAI research**
  • Primary Qualitative & Quantitative research
  • Literature reviews/ desk research
  • Collaborations with other not for profit organisations, state organisations & Universities
  • Collation of Research/Current Policy and Services – Overview Report on Family Caring in Ireland. (March 2015)
  • Dissemination (detailed later)

• **Primary Research- Examples**
  • Carers Week survey March 2015- ~800 Responses- valuable insights re: carer attitudes and experiences- both qualitative and quantitative
  • Health and Well-being of Family Carers in Ireland: Results of a survey of recipients of the Carer’s Allowance (2008) (quantitative)
• **Collaborations with other groups & Universities**
  - Benefit Findings for Carers (Ongoing, with University of Limerick)
  - Between Worlds: The Experiences and Needs of Former Family Carers (2011, with Trinity College Dublin)
  - Together for Young Adult Carers (TOYAC) (2013, with other NGO’s based around Europe)
  - A number of collaborative research bids are currently under consideration for funding (EU, NDA, HRB)
  - Other Carer/Condition Specific Organisations Research- limited collaboration to-date (The Carers Association, The Alzheimer Society)

• **Dissemination**
  - Database of current & recent family carer research (Ireland) available on CAI website
  - Research & Policy E-zine on family carer issues (2 editions to date) & general CAI newsletters
  - Family Carer Research Group (Meeting June 2015)
  - All CAI and collaborative project reports published on CAI website
  - Conference presentations (e.g. International Carers Conference 2015)
  - CAI Twitter (@CareAllianceIrl)