

2012 Annual Review

Chairperson's Statement

Care Alliance Ireland has continued its programme of development in the sector throughout 2012. Membership has continued to increase and at year-end stood at 88 organisations, including all the carer organisations and the majority of the condition-specific organisations. We are delighted to welcome a wider range of organisations as members, and we believe it reinforces our mandate to support collaborative working across organisations and to guide support for Family Carers in Ireland.

This report will outline the work of Care Alliance Ireland in supporting collaboration and research, coordinating National Carers Week, developing resources for the sector, sharing information, contributing to national planning and policy initiatives, and in working with other organisations to advocate on issues relating to Family Carers.

We pride ourselves in having strong governance and in November, the board formally signed up to the adoption of the Governance Code. This year has seen the resignation of one director who made a significant contribution to the organisation over the years – Catherine Keogh. We are grateful for the contribution Catherine made.

2012 saw the publication of the first ever National Carers Strategy. This is a significant milestone. In spite of on-going budgetary constraints we have continued to make the necessary adjustments that have allowed us to continue to implement the central elements of our Strategic Plan 2010–2012. In 2012 we began to review our current strategic plan with a view to developing a new one in 2013. I would like to thank my fellow board members and all of the team for their professionalism and dedication.

I would like to thank each of our member organisations and other stakeholders for their support and feedback. I would also like to thank the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the HSE and The Carmichael Centre for their continued support.



Kevin O'Boyle, Chair

2012 In Images

life after care



Over 700 downloads of the Life after Care Booklet.
2,000 hard copies circulated nationwide.



Guiding support for family carers

February –
Launch of Rebranded Website and
New Organisation Logo



Some Directors of Care Alliance –
having a break from a
board meeting in May 2012.



Nuala Carey –
supporting National Carers Week,
June 2012.



An Taoiseach, Minister Lynch and
Carer Representatives –
at the launch in July of the
Carers Strategy.



Geoffrey Shannon, speaking at the
Young Carers seminar in
September 2012.



Young Carer of the year, Amanda Norris,
speaking at the Young Carers seminar in September.



October 2012 – first teleconference of the TOYAC Project.

2012 in Figures

- 5 meetings of the board of Care Alliance Ireland
- 160+ events for Family Carers for National Carers Week
- 88 Member Organisations of Care Alliance Ireland – 8 new members
- 42 commitments in the National Carers Strategy
- 5,847 – Number of unique users of our website.
- €0 – Extra resources allocated to implement National Carers Strategy.
- 187,000 – The number of Family Carers according to the 2011 Census figures.

Key Dates in 2012

- February 14th – National Carers Week First Planning Meeting.
- February 27th – Launch of New Website and Logo
- May 17th – AGM of Care Alliance Ireland
- May 22nd to 23rd – Eurocarers Conference.
- June 18th to 24th – 6th National Carers Week
- June 30th – Preliminary Census Figures published including figures for Family Carers.
- July 19th – The publication of the first ever National Carers Strategy.
- September 25th – Young Carers Seminar
- November 1st – Release of Census 2011 detailed area figures.
- Dec 5th – Budget Day, when the 19% cut in the Respite Care grant was announced.

2012 in Feedback

I would like to thank you on behalf of all the social workers for all your contacts and e-mails. We work with carers every day from all around the country and it is so useful to have a central point of information and resource we can use. The list of carer training around Ireland is something we distribute after our in-house carer training programmes, as we want the carers we work with to link in with on-going supports. Most of the families we work with are coping with a newly acquired disability or illness and the carer role is a very new area for them. The carer strategy is also something we want to advocate for along with some of the voluntary agencies on site.

(Principal Social Worker, Large Hospital)

*Acknowledging receipt and your generosity for sharing the attached documents.
I will enjoy reading them.*

(Senior Health Care Professional, HSE South)

I really appreciate that you took the time to contact me both by telephone and email about my research and pointed me in the right direction at a time when I really needed a little bit of guidance. Before I began this thesis I had quite an interest in this area, and having completed research in the area my interest in research into the carers experiences in Ireland has grown considerably. I hope to further develop this interest in my future career or in future research, so perhaps our paths will cross again!

(Fourth year Speech and Language Therapy Student)

Thanks for all your help throughout the last year.

(Outreach Worker, Member Organisation)

Thank you very much for sending on all the information from the recent seminar. It is very much appreciated. It seems to have gone really well and the presentations were excellent. Congratulations on an excellent piece of work.

(Community Development Worker, Partnership)

Thank you so much for your kind assistance and support with this survey of self-management support programmes and services. Thank you for forwarding the email regarding the Self Management Alliance in the US with Dr. Birkel's contact details, which presents a great opportunity to link in with developments in the US.

(Health Promotion Manager, HSE)

This sort of document is just what's needed - thanks again. It made my day! :-)

(Family Carer, on reading the Resource 'Skills Acquired whilst caring')

The publication looks great. Sincere thanks

(Project Manager, Member Organisation)

Thanks for your email, and for very diplomatically pointing out our lax updating! I'm going to link with my colleagues in ... and get the pages updated as soon as possible.

(Head of Communications, Statutory Body)

Congratulations on all the Care Alliance's successes in 2012

(CEO, Condition Specific Member Organisation)

Thank you, the stream of information from Care Alliance is most useful and much appreciated.

(Information Officer, Psychiatric Hospital)

I found the session invaluable (on Governance) – my thanks to Care Alliance.... And thanks for the prompt forwarding of the presentation and other docs!

(CEO, Member Organisation)

2012 in Quotes

“Carers will be recognised and respected as key care partners. They will be supported to maintain their own health and well-being and to care with confidence. They will be empowered to participate as fully as possible in economic and social life.”

National Carers Strategy, July 2012.

“It is time for courage and conviction in order to get the right changes.”

An Taoiseach, ignoring calls to reverse the cuts to the Respite Care Grant announced in budget 2012, December 5th

“I know all too well how important family carers are, enabling people to continue to live at home. The week is a fantastic celebration of the contribution carers make to our loved ones’ lives and it’s an opportunity for us all to do something extra special for Family Carers in our community.”

Nuala Carey, Supporter of National Carers Week, June 2012.

Report of the Executive Director

Care Alliance Ireland is made up of 88 member organisations that represent a wide group of voluntary organisations throughout the island of Ireland, all of which are involved in supporting Family Carers in various ways. 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 and we endeavour to achieve this by supporting our member organisations in their direct work with Family Carers, through the provision of information, developing research and policy in the field, sharing resources, and instigating opportunities for collaboration. During 2012, we strove to give expression to our new catch line – Guiding Support for Family Carers.

Our achievements in 2012 include a successful National Carers Week with high levels of reach and impact; greater engagement with and support to more member organisations; and securing a commitment to review the potential for Carers’ Assessments to be incorporated into the InterRAI assessment tool that is being rolled out within the HSE. We also played a role in positively influencing the contents of the National Carers’ Strategy. Above all we see evidence of more and more collaboration between organisations that ultimately leads to better support services for Family Carers.

July 19th 2012 marked the publication of the first ever National Carers’ Strategy by the government. Care Alliance Ireland considers this a significant milestone in advocacy for and recognition of Family Carers in Ireland. While we believe that it is weak in some areas – noticeably it offers no guarantee to fully protect current income supports and no firm commitment to the right to Carer Assessments – the Strategy does set out a future roadmap for better recognition and support for Family Carers. Importantly, it outlines which Government department is responsible for implementing each action and over what timeframe.

Our membership continued to increase, with The Irish Wheelchair Association, The National Council for the Blind, RehabCare and five other organisations joining during 2012.

We continued to promote research and collaborate with researchers in the area. Our research reports continue to be referenced and downloaded from our website.

We also made a number of submissions to various bodies throughout the year including a joint submission with The Carers Association to the Department of Health concerning a review of Disability Policy. In addition, we made a pre-Budget Submission and a submission to the EU on Carers’ Leave. In June we published a position paper on Carer Assessments.

High standards of governance are paramount in Care Alliance Ireland. While a review of our system has indicated we are significantly in compliance with the recently launched Code of Governance for Charities, a small number of areas require strengthening in 2013 to achieve best practice and ensure 100% compliance. At the November board meeting, the directors formally signed up to the process of becoming fully compliant with the Code of Governance. Each governance issue identified has both an action plan and a time frame for completion. For example, the directors have appointed a director as the Company Secretary, in place of the Executive Director, as per best practice. In October, in collaboration with Boardmatch Ireland, we facilitated a session with member organisations looking at the Governance Code and its implications.

Throughout the year, we assisted researchers, students, media and the general public with queries in relation to research on Family Carers, via e-mail and telephone. We received occasional calls from Family Carers and we advised and re-directed as appropriate.

We continue to participate on the Consultative Group of the National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP) that meets quarterly. The NCPOP/HSE have agreed on a three year research programme – one of the three key research projects will look at Carer Stress/ Elder Abuse, following successful representation on this issue by our own and other carer organisations.

Facilitating collaborative ventures is a key component of our work and in this regard we work closely with The Disability Federation of Ireland with whom we have a Memorandum of Understanding.

We undertake regular reviews of new Family Carer research, policy and practice resources internationally and disseminate as appropriate. We continue to manage an up-to-date database of Family Carer Training in Ireland. Our newsletter continues to provide its audience with updates from the latest research, policy and practice issues in the sector, with four editions being produced and distributed in 2012. Throughout 2012 we engaged in on-going targeted distribution of information by e-mail and through our listserv. Our list of validated and engaged contacts continued to grow and now exceeds 550.

We co-ordinated the 6th National Carers Week (June 18th –24th) in 2012, in partnership with eight leading Irish charities/NGOs who support Family Carers. These national partners are: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Brí, The Carers Association, Caring for Carers, The Disability Federation of Ireland, Headway, MS Ireland, and The Irish Hospice Foundation. The objective of the week was to highlight the contribution of Ireland's Family Carers; it has become a significant event in the calendar of many organisations supporting Family Carers. The events of the week

secured very high levels of media coverage, and again the number of events organised for Carers exceeded the previous years'. Considerable corporate sponsorship has been secured for Carers Week 2013 and a new independent Chair has been recruited through Boardmatch Ireland. An inaugural Carers Week newsletter was published in October.

Our rebranding in early 2012 included a new website. The website continues to be updated regularly and is viewed extensively within the Carer and NGO sector. There was a 6% increase in the number of unique users to the site in 2012 (5,847). Some of the most popular downloads were our research reports, our Directory of Support Services, Life After Care Booklet, and a list of skills acquired through caring.

We have worked closely with other carer organisations in the preparation of a submission on The Single Working Age payment.

In 2012 we were successful in an application to the EU for a Young Carers Knowledge Exchange Project. Together for Young Adult Carers (TOYAC) began in the autumn of 2012 and will continue through 2013. In November, we took part by teleconference in the inaugural meeting of the international forum on young Carers.

In September we organised a well-attended seminar on young carer policy and service developments, co-hosted by Crosscare Carer Support and The Carers Association. A report on the seminar was distributed widely. A further seminar on the same theme is planned for May 2013, this time involving EU colleagues.

In October, the Executive Director travelled to meet with eight new member organisations based in the West of Ireland. This was a fruitful endeavour and has resulted in new initiatives with a number of our newer member organisations.

As in previous years, we continued to seek other sources of funding in order to widen our funding base, with some success. Audited accounts for 2012 have been prepared using the gold standard of SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice). Our income was €91,000 in 2012 (€101,100 in 2011) and our expenditure was also €91,000 in 2012 (€98,000 in 2011). Our two biggest funders in 2012 were the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (54%) and the Health Service Executive (27%). Other income in 2012 included two small National Lottery Grants, income for an EU Young Adult Carers Project, membership fees, and deposit interest. On the expenditure side, wages and contracted administrative support were the biggest outlays (53%), followed by project expenditure (22%) and rent (7%). Further reductions in some statutory income are expected in 2013.

We encourage our member organisations and other stakeholders to actively consider collaborations, joint work and mergers as appropriate. We continue to operate out of The Carmichael Centre where we make extensive use of the shared services (accounts, offices, meeting rooms etc.), as well as making use of peer support with other NGOs.

We continue to work very closely with the HSE regional carer support co-ordinators as well as those NGOs contracted to provide carer support programmes in other areas around the country.

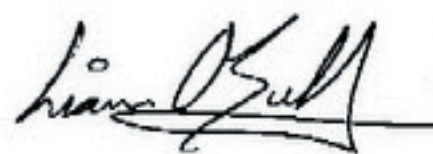
Internationally, we continue to be active within Eurocarers, and have regular contact with key European and US carer organisations.

The board of directors continues to meet bi-monthly, meeting five times in 2012, and receives a comprehensive report from the Executive Director in advance of each meeting, aligned to agreed Key Performance Indicators and the Strategic Plan. On average, there were nine board members at each meeting, equating to an attendance rate of 66%. A breakdown of individual attendance is supplied at the end of this report. The Terms of Reference for the two sub-committees of the board were reviewed and a board review commenced.

We continue to see the need to support our member organisations and other stakeholders in their work with Family Carers. We believe that our interventions enable them to better support Family Carers. Direct feedback from a range of stakeholders tells us that the work we do is helpful to them.

We continually seek to reach out to potential member organisations so that we can positively influence a greater range of organisations and stakeholders. We look forward to continuing this work into the future.

We look forward, in 2013, to continuing in our ambition to make Ireland a better place to live for Family Carers.



Liam O'Sullivan

Executive Director, Care Alliance Ireland

May 2013

Board Attendance Rates 2012

Name	Jan 2012	April 2012	May 2012	Sept 2012	Nov 2012	Total Attended in 2012	Attendance Rate
Marie Lynch	1	1	0	1	1	4	80%
Colum Conway	0	1	1	0	0	2	40%
Ann Kavanagh	1	0	0	1	0	2	40%
Geraldine Clarke	1	1	1	1	0	4	80%
Robin Webster	0	1	0	0	0	1	20%
Frank Goodwin	0	0	1	1	1	3	60%
Geraldine Fennell	1	0	0	1	0	2	40%
Paula Lane	0	0	1	0	1	2	40%
Avril Dooley	1	1	1	1	0	4	80%
Gerry McCaffrey	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%
Nora Kirrane	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%
Kevin O'Boyle	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%
Dermot Maguire	1	1	1	0	1	4	80%

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Board of Directors: Geraldine Clarke, Avril Dooley,
Clare Duffy, Dr Geraldine Fennell, Frank Goodwin,
Ann Kavanagh, Nora Kirrane, Dr Paula Lane,
Marie Lynch, Dermot Maguire, Dr Gerard McCaffrey,
Kevin O'Boyle (Chair), Robin Webster.
Executive Director: Liam O'Sullivan