



# Care Alliance Ireland Exchange

Winter 2017 Issue 57

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## Care Alliance Ireland Wins Good Governance Award for Second Year in a Row

We were delighted to again win the Good Governance awards (Small Charity Category).

Speaking on the news, our Chair, Donal McKenna, said:

*"This award is another recognition of efforts we in Care Alliance Ireland have made at raising of the bar when it comes to governance and accountability. We now encourage all our member organisations and the wider NGO community to continue their journey of improving good governance."*

Our Executive Director Liam O'Sullivan said:

*"In a sector where measuring real impact is notoriously difficult, excelling in governance is one of many ways that we can demonstrate our effectiveness. Good governance for us is about having values that respect people and processes, actions that demonstrate transparency and an approach to getting things done in collaboration with others that enables our stakeholders to better support Ireland's 360,000 Family Carers."*



We were even more delighted that Baroness Jill Pitkeathly, former CEO of Carers UK, came over from the UK to present the awards. Her more recent work includes Chairing the House of Lord's Select Committee on Charities in the UK.

Above, some of the Care Alliance Ireland staff and volunteer directors at the Good Governance Awards Ceremony



## News

### Good Governance Awards



Shortlisted organisations for the second Good Governance Awards were the following:

#### ***Category 1 – Organisations with an annual turnover of less than €250,000***

##### **Winning Organisation: Care Alliance Ireland**

Shortlisted Nominees:

- Chronic Pain Ireland
- Helium Arts

#### ***Category 2 – Organisations with an annual turnover of between €250,000 and €1million***

##### **Winning Organisation: Children's Right's Alliance**

Shortlisted Nominees:

- Coeliac Society of Ireland
- Comhlámh
- Mercy International

#### ***Category 3 – Organisations with an annual turnover of between €1million and €5million***

##### **Winning organisation: Aidlink**

Shortlisted Nominees:

- HAIL – Housing Association for Integrated Living
- Irish Hospice Foundation
- VSO Ireland

#### ***Category 4 – Organisations with an annual turnover of over €5million***

##### **Winning Organisation: Concern**

Shortlisted Nominees:

- Central Remedial Clinic (CRC)
- Focus Ireland
- Plan International
- Trócaire



Baroness Jill Pitkeathley (3rd from left), Diarmaid O'Corrbui (2nd from right, The Carmichael Centre, Awards organiser) with the four Award Winners from Concern, Aidlink, Children's Rights Alliance, and Care Alliance Ireland.

## News

### Virtual Working Group to Update Life After Care Booklet

There is considerable evidence that the impact of caring materialises when caring ends and often is associated with a void in people's lives. There are few published reports on the post-caring period, but there is strong evidence to show that the psychological, social and physical health consequences of caring may leave some Family Carers poorly equipped for life after care.

Care Alliance Ireland has long had an interest in the needs of former Family Carers and seeks now to continue its work in this area by updating the original Life After Care booklet that it produced in collaboration with a number of carer organisations across Europe. Interest in and demand for this resource has been ongoing since we published it. We have distributed in excess of 1,000 hard copies across Ireland and there have been over 3,000 downloads of the booklet. In early 2016 we ran out of hard copies and have been unable to meet requests for this publication in recent times.

A virtual working group has been meeting in recent months, including former Family Carers as well as representatives from organisations for carers, palliative care, dementia care, old age/mental health, from academia and from abroad. The group has agreed terms of reference and is currently reviewing the existing relevant material/resources available in Ireland and internationally. This will then inform the updated content.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery, we envisage that hard copies of an updated booklet will be available for distribution across Ireland by early next year.

For more information on former carers see [http://www.carealliance.ie/publications\\_formercarers](http://www.carealliance.ie/publications_formercarers).

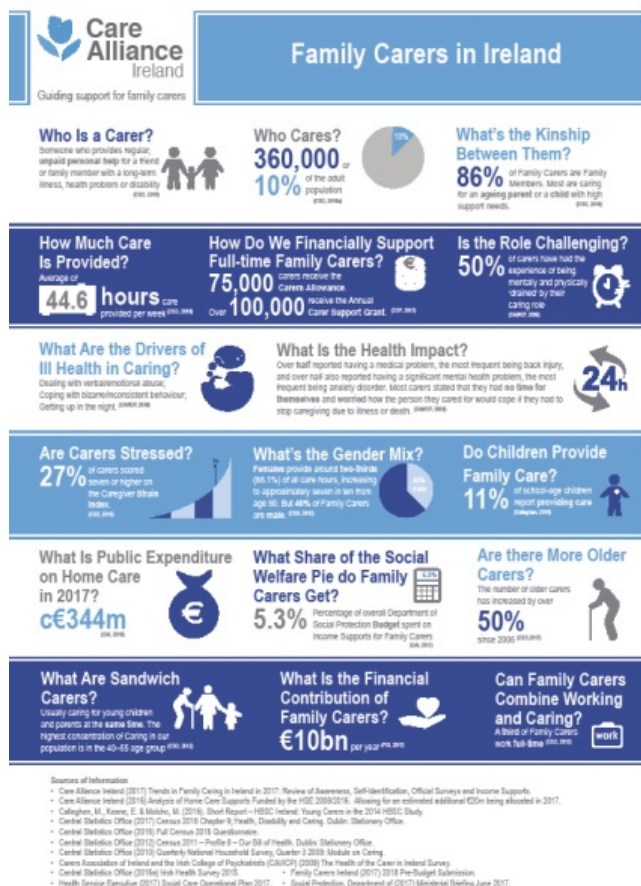
#### Project Targets

- 36-page A5 updated booklet reflecting the latest research on supporting the needs of former Family Carers.
- Updated contact details, websites and other relevant details.
  - A new section on online supports.
  - 2,000 copies distributed across the country in 2018.
  - 3,000 downloads of the publication in 2018/19.
- National media coverage of the launch of the booklet.

# News

## Two New Infographics Launched

We are delighted to have published two new infographics about Family Caring in Ireland and about the work of Care Alliance Ireland.



Full pdf available [here](#).

Full pdf available [here](#).



## News

### Budget 2018 Summary



Care Alliance Ireland were pleased to welcome a number of initiatives announced as part of Budget 2018 which will go some way towards the realisation of the Government's commitment to see Family Carers as "Partners in Care". However, we remain disappointed with the lack of clarity regarding certain measures, and the lack of priority for investment in services and supports for people with disabilities, dementia and mental health issues. In addition, some measures which would greatly benefit Family Carers and former Family Carers remain inaccessible for this cohort of individuals.

Key initiatives, relevant to many Family Carers, include:

- Overall increase in the budget of the Department of Health of €685million to include:
  - €90m for new Access Plan for healthcare – to allow patients to receive the care they need in the most appropriate setting.
  - Additional 1,800 frontline staff in the HSE.
  - Reduction in prescription charge for all those in receipt of full medical card (under 70) from €2.50 to €2; monthly cap on charges reduced from €25 to €20.
  - Drugs payment scheme threshold down from €144 to €134.
  - Nursing Home Support Scheme received a budget of €949.7m for 2018 to ensure the waiting list for the Scheme does not exceed four weeks throughout 2018.
- €1.7bn for Special Education Needs to include an additional 1,000 SNAs in place for September 2018.
- €5 increase on all weekly Social Welfare payments (Carers Allowance, Disability Allowance, State Pension) beginning in March 2018.
- 85% Christmas bonus (to be paid in the first week of December).
- Additional week of Fuel Allowance (now 27 weeks).
- €2.50 telephone support scheme for those in receipt of the Living Alone Allowance and the Fuel Allowance.
- Home Carer tax credit increase by €100 – now up to €1200 per year.

The additional €37m announced for Home Care Packages and Transitional Care beds is welcome. We look forward to reading the specific details of these plans in the upcoming 2018 HSE Service Plan.

Our full analysis of Budget 2018 is available [here](#).

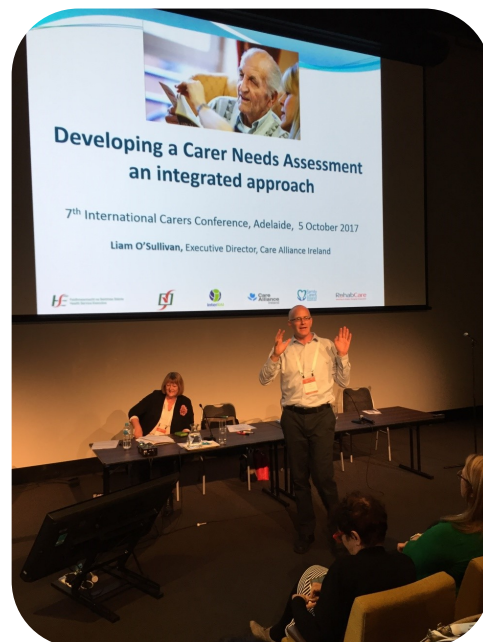
## News

### Papers from International Carers Conference Now Available

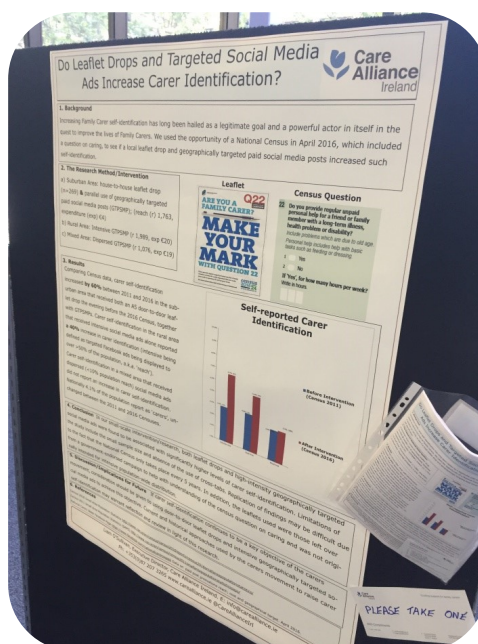
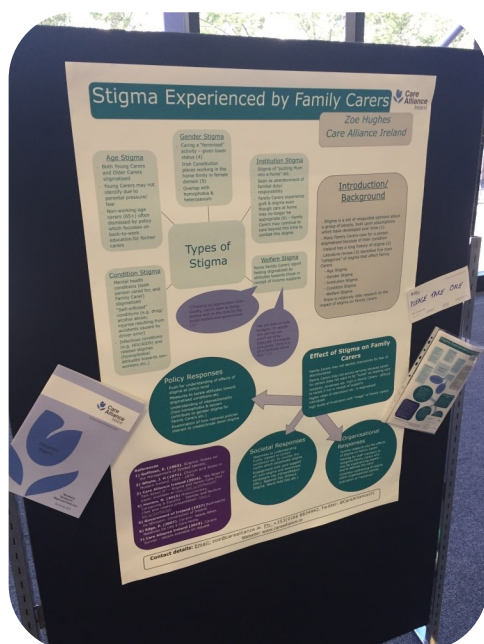


Our Executive Director, Liam O'Sullivan, was privileged to present three papers and three posters at the 7th International Carers Conference in Adelaide, Australia in October.

- Supporting Professionals to Support Young Carers – an EU Experience ([Oral Presentation](#))
- Developing a Carer Needs Assessment: An Integrated Approach ([Oral Presentation](#))
- Post-caregiving: Family Carers' Experiences of Cessation of the Caring Role – Implications for Policy and Practice ([Oral Presentation](#))
- Do Leaflet Drops and Targeted Social Media Ads Increase Carer Identification? ([Poster Presentation](#))
- Having An Impact – Supporting High-quality Family Carer Training ([Poster Presentation](#))
- Stigma Experienced by Family Carers ([Poster Presentation](#))



The full list of presentations is now available on the Conference website [here](#).



# News

## New Discussion Document Published

The latest (7th) discussion paper to be published by Care Alliance Ireland looks at intimate relationships and Family Carers.

Entitled *Romancing the Carer – Intimate Relationships and Family Caring*, this paper explores the issue of the impact on intimate relationships for Family Carers. The majority of studies that have been undertaken to date often focus exclusively on the impacts of the disability on the relationship, rather than the impact of caring on the partner/spouse providing care, or on the partner/spouse of a Family Carer who cares for another member of the family (e.g. a parent).

The topic of sexuality and romantic intimacy is not an easy one for many to discuss; in particular it is often seen as secondary to the difficulties being faced in other aspects of life and the relationship.

Sexual and romantic intimacy is for many what differentiates spousal and partner relationships from friendship and other relationships which develop between families and friends. When a sudden and unexpected illness, disability or other trauma occurs within that relationship, this key aspect can be ignored or deprioritised, which in turn threatens the foundation of such a relationship.

The paper is organised under two main headings – caring for a spouse/partner and caring for an older relative. The final section of the paper proposes some organisational and policy responses to the issues raised.

The full paper can be read [here](#).



The Care Alliance Discussion Paper series can be found on our website.

The papers to date are:

- Paper 1: ***Defining Carers*** (October 2015)
- Paper 2: ***Intellectual Disability, Caring and Role Reversal*** (December 2015)
- Paper 3: ***Online Supports for Family Carers – Options & Experiences*** (June 2016)
- Paper 4: ***The Wisdom of Family Carers*** (October 2016)
- Paper 5: ***"We Need to Talk About It" – Stigma & Family Care*** (December 2016)
- Paper 6: ***Disability and Family Carer Policy – Challenges and Responses*** (April 2017)



## News

### Research & Policy Officer Reporting

Zoe Hughes continues to work with member organisations to increase collaboration across the policy and research brief of Care Alliance Ireland. Work undertaken on research and policy issues recently includes:



- Continued involvement with the Invest in Homecare campaign and the National Patient Forum.
- Attendance at the Dept. of Social Protection post-budget briefing (Budget 2018).
- Three policy submissions – Home Care Consultation, Personalised Budgets (read submission [here](#)), Census 2021 (read submission [here](#)).
- Publication of post-Budget 2018 briefing re changes & impacts for Family Carers within 24 hours of Budget announcement (read [here](#)).
- Continued collaboration with University College Dublin on Family Carers and Dementia (HRB-funded project).
- Continued involvement in the Lenus Working Group, including release of a video (watch [here](#)), detailing the impact of Open Access to Care Alliance Ireland and the sector in general as part of Open Access Week 2017.
- Hosted successful meeting of the Family Carer Research Group, with new members and increased inter-group discussion.
- HRB research funding bid with St Angela's College (NUIG) and University of Ulster for "Evaluating the impact of the ICT-based health coaching intervention to promote quality of life and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes in rural unpaid carers: A randomised controlled trial".
- Ongoing drafting of further papers in the Discussion Paper Series (Romance and Family Care read [here](#); and Caring When Relationships are Strained, upcoming). As always, Zoe welcomes any feedback on the papers in this series, and suggestions for upcoming topics to be addressed.
- Support of student projects on the topic of family care where appropriate.
- Attendance and participation on discussion panel at launch of Postcare project on former carers.
- Publication of video recordings of all presentations made at the 2017 CAI/UCD conference (watch [here](#)).
- Continued availability to member organisations to consult and support on key policy & research issues.

For more information on these, or any other policy & research matters, please contact Zoe ([zoe@carealliance.ie](mailto:zoe@carealliance.ie))

### Empowering Professionals to support Young Carers – Project Update

The EPYC partners are continuing to work to spread the message about young carers in many areas of society. We have drafted an information and awareness piece which is currently being reviewed by experts working with young carers. We expect to have this published on the EPYC website in the coming weeks, along with other partner tools.

We are also working on developing a piece of research which will allow young carers to directly report on the types of services and supports which would be meaningful in their lives.



To contact Denise about this project, please email her at [denise@carealliance.ie](mailto:denise@carealliance.ie).



## News

### Resilience in Caregivers of People with Dementia – UCD / Care Alliance Research – Update

Now in its final year, the project got a boost in October with news of additional funding from the HRB to support engagement and dissemination aspects. Speaking about the new piece of work, Sandra McCarthy, researcher with the project, said:

*“we now wish to share our research findings with a wider audience of Family Carers and their families in Ireland. To do this, we will undertake an information and outreach campaign in regional centres throughout Ireland, using local networks and modern communication technologies, like webinars and the internet, so that a larger audience will get the benefits of our knowledge. We have conducted a similar national campaign in the past, when we worked with older people to share our knowledge of financial exploitation and to help them to protect themselves from such exploitation. We believe that these knowledge transfer and exchange (KTE) activities are an important way of bringing the knowledge gained from research to the people who are most likely to benefit from such knowledge.”*



If you would like more information about Sandra's work on the EnCare project you can contact her at [sandra@carealliance.ie](mailto:sandra@carealliance.ie).



St. Vincent's University Hospital

Care Alliance Ireland

HRB Health Research Board

NCPOP National Centre for the Protection of Older People

### Vacancy - Post Doc Research Position in Caregivers of People with Dementia

UCD Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Level 1, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (Temporary)



Applications are invited for the post of Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Level 1, to work on a project that aims to develop and promote resilience in family carers of people with dementia. The position offers an exciting opportunity for a doctorally-prepared individual to work on a major national project, funded by the Health Research Board (HRB). The project is being conducted under the auspices of the UCD National Centre for the Protection of Older People, in partnership with Care Alliance Ireland and St Vincent's University Hospital.

The post will be offered for a period of 1 year, on a fixed term, full-time contract. The UCD Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 1 will be based at the Research Unit of the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.

See Job Description for more details. Further details available through UCD HR Web Portal - <https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/jobs/>

Salary: €36,488–€42,181 per annum. Appointment on the above range will be dependent on qualifications and experience.

Closing Date: 17:00hrs (Local Irish Time) Thursday 16th November 2017 - Extended closing date Monday 27th November 2017.

## Member News

### Post Polio Support Group changes to Polio Survivors Ireland

The new name came about in the context of the new Strategic Plan 2017–2019 that has been adopted by the organisation. For some time, members have been referring to themselves as polio survivors. The new logo that accompanies this change represents the footprint of a polio survivor on their long journey away from polio and how, despite the many challenges they have had to confront, polio survivors have made an impact in their communities and across society.

It is estimated that as many as 7,000 people who have had polio live in Ireland and are increasingly impacted by the late effects of polio as they age. Having been established in 1993 to support people who have had polio, the organisation provides help, information, aids, appliances and therapies to those who have needs relating to polio, in order to help survivors live out their lives with dignity.

Polio Survivors Ireland is the only organisation in Ireland providing practical services and support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted polio as babies or young children. The charity works to raise awareness of the issues faced by polio survivors and to educate medical professionals, social care providers and health policy makers about the reality for all those still impacted by the legacy of polio.

Contact details: Unit 319 Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7

Tel: +353 1 889 8920 Email: [info@ppsg.ie](mailto:info@ppsg.ie)



Pictured are polio survivors Johnny O'Sullivan, Anne Burns, Bridget Quigley O'Brien and Joan Bradley, along with Eric Knowles, of the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, helping to launch the new name of polio charity Polio Survivors Ireland, previously the Post Polio Support Group, at the 50 Plus Expo in the RDS recently.

# Governance Corner

## Good Governance Awards

See pages 1 & 2.



## Policies Under Review

In addition to developing a Company Governance Handbook, over the coming months the following policies will be reviewed. Data Protection Policy, Division of Responsibilities between Chairperson of the Board and Executive Director, Code of Conduct for Directors, Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Board for Decision, and Protected Disclosures (Whistleblowers) Policy.



## Governance Seminar Planned

As part of our commitment to supporting organisations to improve their governance, we are collaborating with The Carmichael Centre in delivering a one-day seminar in Dublin on Good Governance on Monday 5 March 2018. (Final seminar details to follow in next edition of Newsletter.)



## Trustees and Public Invited to Have Their Say

The Charities Regulator has established a panel to make proposals for the governance of charities and to support trustees in their duties. As part of this process, the panel is seeking to consult the public and other stakeholders on issues such as: governance responsibility; monitoring; governance code and guidelines.



A series of public meetings and an online survey are being organised to give people the opportunity to make their opinions known. Among the questions raised will be: Is there a need for a governance code specific to all registered Irish charities operating in the State? Should these governance standards apply differently for small, medium and large charities? Should there be reasonable checks on a person's suitability to be a charity trustee? Should there be a maximum term allowable for charity trustees?

The online questionnaire will be hosted on the [Charities Regulator's website](http://CharitiesRegulator.ie) from 1 November to 6 December. In addition, if members of the public wish to make a written submission they can email it to [governancepanel@charitiesregulator.ie](mailto:governancepanel@charitiesregulator.ie) or post it to: Consultative Panel on Governance of Charitable Organisations, 3 Georges Dock, IFSC, Dublin 1.

[www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie](http://www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie)

## Governance Compliance Numbers Continue to Rise

As of 7 November, 460 organisations report being compliant with the Governance Code

1,230 organisations report being on the journey to adoption

For a full list of organisations see [here](#)



## Research

### Care Alliance Ireland Submits Abstracts for 2018 Social Work Conference

As part of our strategic plan, we are committed to reaching out to a wide audience with respect to our activities and ideas for impactful, evidence-informed and improved Family Carer supports. With this in mind, and noting that two of our senior staff have Social Work qualifications, we have submitted six abstracts for consideration at the July 2018 *Social Work, Education and Social Development* conference taking place in the RDS, Dublin on 4–7 July.



The six abstracts are:

- 1) Are Social Workers Successfully Engaging with Family Carers?
- 2) Do Leaflet Drops and Targeted Social Media Ads Increase Carer Identification?
- 3) Social Media (Facebook) as an Intervention to Support Ireland's Family Carers
- 4) Having an Impact: Supporting High-quality Family Carer Training
- 5) Social Work Practice Teaching in Non-traditional, Desk-based Settings
- 6) Resilience-Focussed Social Work to Support Family Carers of People with Dementia

The full conference programme is available [here](#). To register for the conference click [here](#).

### New Website Launched to Support Carers in Cork

Family Carers Support: Mental Health Caring or FaCsme is a collaborative project between the School of Applied Social Studies University College Cork and the Family Carers Ireland Cork Branch.

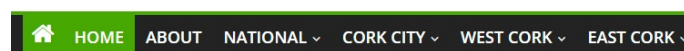
The website seeks to signpost the range of support services available to Family Carers in the area.

This website provides information on mental health services for Family Carers including: Family Carer Groups; Supports for Young People; Mental Health Support Services; Health Service Executive Support Services and Other Supports e.g. Financial, Education, Housing.

For more information, email: [jacqui@ucc.ie](mailto:jacqui@ucc.ie) or see the website: <http://facsme.com/>

#### FaCsme

Family Carers Support: Mental Health Caring



Home

Mental Health Services for Family Carers:  
Click below for services in your area



# Research

## Practice Nurses More Positive about Primary Care in Ireland than Are GPs

A recent report published in BMC Family Practice found that views varied considerably about the impact and potential of the much-heralded Primary Care teams to support collaboration amongst Ireland's health and social care professionals.

This study, authored by Edel Tierney and others compares Primary Healthcare Professionals' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Primary Care Strategy and Primary Care Team (PCT) implementation in Ireland.

### Methods

Design and Setting: e-survey of (1) General Practitioners (GPs) associated with a Graduate Medical School (N = 100) and (2) Primary Care Professionals in 3 of 4 Health Service Executive (HSE) regions (N = 2309). After piloting, snowball sampling was used to administer the survey. Descriptive analysis was carried out using SPSS. Ratings across groups were compared using non-parametric tests.

### Results

There were 569 responses. Response rates varied across disciplines (71% for GPs, 22% for other Primary Healthcare Professionals (PCPs)). Respondents across all disciplines viewed interdisciplinary working as important. Respondents agreed on lack of progress of implementation of formal PCTs (median rating of 2, where 1 is no progress at all and 5 is complete implementation). GPs were more negative about the effectiveness of the strategy to promote different disciplines to work together (median rating of 2 compared to 3 for clinical therapists and 3.5 for nurses,  $P = 0.001$ ). Respondents identified resources and GP participation as most important for effective team working. Protected time for meetings and capacity to manage workload for meetings were rated as very important factors for effective team working by GPs, clinical therapists and nurses. A building for co-location of teams was rated as an important factor by nurses and clinical therapists though GPs rated it as less important. Payment to attend meetings and contractual arrangements were considered important factors by GPs but not by nurses or clinical therapists.

### Conclusion

PCPs and GPs agree there is limited PCT implementation. GPs are most negative about this implementation. There is some disagreement about which resources are most important for effective PCT working. These findings provide valuable data for clinicians and policy makers about implementation of interdisciplinary teams in primary care.

Full report available to read on Open Access [here](#).

# Reserach

## Significant Report on Former Carers Launched in UCC

Care Alliance Ireland is delighted to have collaborated with University College Cork and others in a project funded under the Irish Research Council New Foundations Programme entitled, ***Post-Caregiving: Family Carers' Experiences of Cessation of the Caring Role – Implications for Policy and Practice.***

The report found that post-caregiving involves significant challenges for former Family Carers, including return to work or education, economic and financial challenges, rebuilding social networks, changed family relationships, dealing with complicated grief and identity rebuilding.

This participatory action research (PAR) project sought to highlight the experiences and preferences of former Family Carers to inform and address this policy and practice deficit. Led by Dr Carol Kelleher and Dr Jacqui O' Riordan (UCC/ ISS21), and in collaboration with Care Alliance Ireland, Family Carers Ireland (FCI), and West Cork Carers Support Group, the specific purpose was to illuminate and give voice to the experiences and needs of former Family Carers in the postcaring / care-transition period – that is, when the caregiving role has ceased. POSTCARE provides nuanced knowledge of Family Carers' post-caregiving experiences of loss, and role and identity transition upon cessation of the caring role.

As part of the project, short peer-support videos were made with former carers who participated in the POSTCARE project:

<https://vimeo.com/239427924> (1 minute film)

<https://vimeo.com/239443227> (9 minute film)

Specifically, this research presents former Family Carers' perspectives to assist in the response of carer organisations and policy makers to aim 1.3.5 of the National Carers' Strategy: 'to review existing transition arrangements for carers at the end of their caring role'.

Face-to-face semi-structured and video interviews focusing on the experience of 20 former Family Carers' were conducted.

The report found that a one-size-fits-all approach in terms of supports or social policy is not appropriate; rather multiple levels of support throughout and beyond the caregiving life course are required. There is, therefore, a need to consider the multiple and cumulative transitions throughout and beyond the caregiving life course, including identity rebuilding.

The full report is available to read on our website [www.carealliance.ie](http://www.carealliance.ie).

*Photos from the launch can be seen on page 15.*



# News

## Significant Report on Former Carers Launched in UCC

Pictured at the launch in UCC are:

top: Dr Carol Kelleher, UCC, lead author of the Postcare report

middle: Former Family Carers together with staff from West Cork Carers Support Group who took part in the Postcare project

bottom: Zoe Hughes (Care Alliance Ireland), Senator Collette Kelleher and Peter Cox (Family Carers Ireland)



# Research

## Major Carer Research Scoping Review Published

Social Care Online



social care  
institute for excellence

### *Seeing the wood for the trees. Carer-related research and knowledge: a scoping review*

**Authors:** Henwood Melanie, Larkin Mary, Milne Alisoun

**Publisher:** Melanie Henwood Associates

**Publication year:** 2017

This NIHR-SSCR-funded scoping review provides a comprehensive mapping of what is known about carers and caring, and aims to help inform policy, practice and research in relation to carers. The review was undertaken by searching 10 electronic bibliographic databases, supplemented by additional web searches, to identify academic research, grey literature and wider knowledge. The analysis adopts a selective thematic approach covering: carer variables – the characteristics of different types of carer and different caring situations; types of care – the nature of needs of the cared-for person and the features of the care situation; the impact of caring – resilience and coping, employment and health; and carer support and needs assessment. The final section highlights key messages identified from the review. It found that caring involves all sections and age groups of the population, with people likely to experience one or more periods of caregiving over their lifetime. The uniqueness of each caring relationship is also highlighted. In relation to types of carers, knowledge about 'hard to reach' groups, such as BAME and LGBT carers, remains sparse. Older carers are also relatively invisible in policy and research terms. It found that much of the knowledge about carers identified in the review relates to their characteristics, their lived experience and the nature of their caregiving, with relatively less being known about the effectiveness of interventions to support them. The report concludes by offering suggestions for policy and practice. An appendix provides a bibliography of the 3,434 items identified in the review, classified into 17 types of reference. (Edited publisher abstract)

The full report is available to download [here](#).

# International News

## Eurocarers

Eurocarers, now with 73 member organisations across Europe, held their AGM on 21 September.

Final presentations from the TRACK (Training and Recognition of Informal Carers Skills) are also now available on the [project website](#).

A meeting of the European Parliament Interest group on carers took place on 7 November, and was attended by our chairperson Mr Donal McKenna. A research group meeting will take place in December.



## IACO Two New Reports Launched

The IACO AGM was held on 3 October, on the fringes of the 7th International Carers Conference in Adelaide.

The meeting also reviewed the strategic direction of the organisation and heard about successes in securing corporate support for a number of new initiatives.

At the conference, IACO launched two documents, which can be found at <http://www.internationalcarers.org>.

The first, *Carers of Persons with Heart Failure: A Four Nation Study*, was conducted in the US, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, with funding from Novartis.

The second document, *Acknowledging and Aiding Carers: A Guide to Supporting Carers in Your Nation*. This document was developed with funding from EMD Serono to assist nations without carer infrastructures. IACO will be targeting Latin America and South East Asia in the next few years.

In recent weeks Carers Denmark and the International Heart Hub have become members of the IACO family.

At the end of the conference, it was announced that the National Alliance for Caregiving would host the 8th International Carers Conference in the spring of 2020 in Washington, DC.



IACO National Representatives at its  
AGM in Adelaide, October 2017







## About Us

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 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.

There are approximately 360,000 family carers in the Republic of Ireland. Family carer support is provided by a number of organisations, including those dedicated solely to carer support and others who support carers as part of their response to individuals with specific conditions.

We work with our 85 member organisations and other agencies to support them in their work with family carers. Our membership includes all the carers organisations and virtually all the condition-specific organisations currently providing services to many of Ireland's family carers.

To apply for membership of Care Alliance Ireland, please [click here](#).

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**W** [www.carealliance.ie](http://www.carealliance.ie)

Company Limited By Guarantee

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## 10 Reasons To Join Us

**Disclaimer:** This newsletter is for information only and does not constitute endorsement of any service or product referred to. The views expressed are those of the authors/ organisations and are not necessarily shared by Care Alliance Ireland. No responsibility is accepted for any errors, omissions or statements in this newsletter, or on any website or publication referenced.