SAPALD Report from Chair, July 6th 2020

## Charitable purposes

Our organisation’s charitable purposes are:

* To provide relief to those in need by reason of disability, and
* To provide recreational facilities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities are primarily intended, and their families, by the establishment of permanent residential respite and residential facilities in the south Angus area.

## External Events

* The last 3 months of this year have of course been dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic. So this year’s report follows the same structure as last year, but a number of items refer back to the pandemic.
* Various aspects of the Carers Act continue to be implemented, and trustee Caroline had been working with the implementation group and putting forward our opinions with her usual enthusiasm. However, her contributions have had to be put on hold as she is isolating with Becky her daughter, who is shielded. This is ongoing work and will put in result in every unpaid carer in Scotland (including Angus) having a personal support plan and also a support plan for the person they care for. A copy of the evolving implementation of the agreed Carers Strategy, as at June 2020, is attached to this report.
* You will notice from this report that although the Emergency Plan documentation has been approved, along with a Carers Card, the rollout of these has been impeded by the Coronavirus.
* Likewise the issue of creating an equable policy for the ‘Waiving of charges for Carers’ (a key part of the Carers Act) continues as work in progress. The opaque and complex guidance from the Government has meant that it is open to interpretation by each IJB. I have asked that the Carers Collaborative review all the different IJB policies to see if there is a consensus, which can inform our IJB. The situation is not helped by the retirement of Jerry Forteath, the Angus IJB Carers Lead and stout champion of Carers. His permanent replacement will be advertised as a vacancy when the pandemic is under control.
* Funding remains tight but from my seat on the Integrated Joint Board and my work with Partnership officers I continue to promote the need for sufficient funds to be made available for the carers act and for support. This is supported by Cllr Bell on the IJB, and Cllr Lois Speed, who currently chairs the IJB, and also by the relevant officers who act in an advisory capacity. As the majority of the referrals for support will be to the Angus Carers Centre it is vital this is appropriately funded. So far a total of £975K has been received by the IJB for the Carers Act implementation.

## Our Activities 2019-20

In 2019-20 we remain:

* Carer Representatives on the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) at every level – the Integrated Joint Board (IJB), the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the Southwest Locality Improvement Group (LIG).
* Active members of the Angus Carers Centre ‘Angus Carers Voice Network’
* Active members of the Carers Collaborative, a network of IJB carer representatives.
* Members of the Learning Disability Association Scotland (LDAS) – although this organisation seems to have quietly died.
* Additionally I sit on the Government Carers Policy Unit, and the COSLA Health and Social Work Board as the unpaid carer representative

We continue to:

* Work with all 32 IJB Carers representatives across Scotland to create the ‘Equal, Expert and Valued’ report on Carers representation at IJB’s. Version 4 is currently work in progress.
* Have the active support of all seven Carnoustie and Monifieth local Councillors, and that of Graeme Dey, our local MSP.

In addition we have continued our fund-raising activities;

* The final amount generated by fundraising by our local Co-op stores generated significant funds – we have a plan to use these funds to provide sensory and auditory facilities in the garden at the full service Tus Nua house. However, we have been unable to pursue this until such time as distancing is lifted.
* Trustee Pauline and friends have on several occasions raised funds for us by taking over the ‘For Carnoustie’ charity shop, details of both of these from Ian.

## March 2019 onwards

* The most significant event in March was the shocking and untimely death of Trustee Pauline Smith after a routing medical procedure on 23rd March. As a board of trustees we were unable to pay our last respects to the woman who has tirelessly and selflessly been a key fund raiser, arranging and managing days in the local charity shop, and collecting and then presenting raffle prizes at our 6 monthly social events. She will be sorely missed, and our condolences go to her family at this difficult time.
* There still remains an outstanding duty on the IJB partnership to provide local accommodation facility under the Social Work Act 1968. However, despite a few individuals requesting a future facility, a survey of SAPALD members, facilitated by and also sent to all 1300 members of the Angus Carers Centre resulted in a disappointing 6 replies only, and a summary of results is shown below:
* Of the 6 responders, 2 are on the housing register as needing accommodation at some point, and 4 are not; here are the comments of those whose loved one is not on the housing registrar:

“They're not on the housing register as I’d like them to be looked after in their own home”

“Not on the housing register but want them to live at home or locally”

“I don’t think they’re on the housing register and I don’t know what will happen, but should be in Carnoustie”

“Not on the housing register but I want them live in sheltered housing in Arbroath”

Please draw your own conclusions about the practicality of these replies.

Unfortunately therefore, it has been agreed with the relevant officers that *at present* there is no clear demand and no justification for the use of significant capital and revenue funds to acquire and resource a property in Carnoustie. However I believe we should redouble our efforts to ensure that all Carers are aware of the need to be registered. Although this is a disheartening result we cannot be dissuaded from our objectives. And I will ensure that officers are reminded regularly of their duty.

* We continue to encourage the Social Services arm of the AHSCP to make other parents of ALD aware of our presence, and also encourage the creation of other similar groupings in other Angus burghs.
* Your trustees have also been engaged in discussions with the IJB, the Carers Collaborative and COSLA about different items:
  + Shielding during the pandemic applying to medical conditions only, not profound and multiple disabilities (CC and COSLA)
  + Additional payments to Carers claiming Carers Allowance only (IJB and COSLA) – what about pensioners and others who cannot claim it?
  + Government guidance on a flexible approach to SDS Options 1 & 2 (IJB and CC)
  + There is an ongoing debate between IJB officers about SDS – a feeling is rising that the funds should be able to be used for any not illegal. Watch this space.
* Despite this extraordinary and difficult past three months, your trustees will continue to fight for your – our – rights.
* So finally, I can confirm our continued existence as a charity until everyone who needs residential accommodation has it.