

RESHAPING CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

LEAFLET



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Scots have never enjoyed overall better health than they do now.

Older Scots are no different. We are living longer, healthier lives, looking after ourselves and each other and staying active in our communities.

The Scottish Government supports this in a number of ways, like free personal care, free bus travel and help with council tax and energy bills.

In future years Scotland's older people will form a greater proportion of the population than ever before. For the majority of us this will not make a huge difference to the lives we lead.

But many of us will need some help. It may be with our health, looking after ourselves at home or staying in touch with others in the community.

Older people might need services provided by the NHS, local authorities, voluntary and charitable organisations or the private sector.

This kind of help is what we deliver through the care system. It might be provided in a hospital, a care home, someone's own home or in the community. It could be help with medical needs, with household tasks or with getting out and about.

The important thing is that Scotland needs to make sure we can provide services that work for older people and that the country can afford.

The system we have for caring for our older people is right at the heart of these services. We all need to recognise that the way the population is changing means we cannot simply stand still.

We expect there to be 25 per cent more older Scots who will need some form of care in just the next six years.

We have a set-up that was simply not designed to cope with the demands that it will soon face. We need to be creative and ambitious in planning the changes we know we have to make now for the future good of us all.

And we can do it. We have the chance to work together as a country to design and build a care system that will make sure all of us can get the support we need to enjoy our later years.

The Scottish Government, the NHS and Scotland's local authorities have already started thinking about what the future may look like.

But we know we don't have a monopoly on good ideas. That's why we have been asking the views of others such as people who use care services, unpaid carers and voluntary and charitable organisations.

Now we believe it's the right time to talk to a much wider audience and that's why we need your help.

We want people across Scotland to tell us what they think fair care for older people needs to look like.

It doesn't matter what your situation is: you may use a care service, work in one or simply be interested in this area of our lives. Whatever angle you're coming from, the Scottish Government wants to hear from you.

We're calling our work 'Reshaping Care for Older People' and have set up a number of ways that you can take part.

Please visit the website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping>, where you will find documentation on the approach, as well as updates on the national engagement programme and a questionnaire for you to complete. You can also [email the Reshaping Care team](#), phone 0131 244 4020, or write to us at

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We look forward to meeting you and hearing from you.