

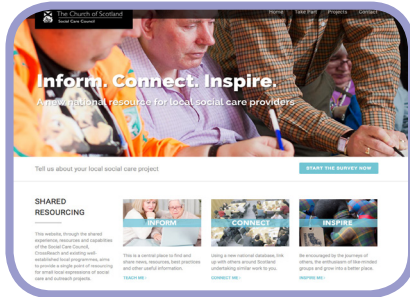
Convener tells Assembly of welcome extra funding

The Convener of the Social Care Council Dr. Sally Bonnar reported to the General Assembly that the lowest paid CrossReach staff are to receive a pay rise from 1st October 2015 which will mean a rate of £7 per hour. Care workers will receive £7.85 per hour which is the Scottish Living Wage. These increases have been made possible by increased funding from the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Council of Assembly. She told commissioners: "This is to be celebrated, and we are grateful to the church for their part in this achievement, but we are not complacent and recognise that there is still some way to go before all staff are paid the living wage. Our report outlines the continued steps we will take to urge funders to include the costs of the Scottish Living Wage in the funding of the services that we provide."



Social Care Forum is launched

A new web based resource has been launched by the Social Care Council – and we're looking for your help! From lunch clubs to playgroups to helping people confront addiction, churches across Scotland are involved



in vital work supporting people in their communities, often doing it alone. The Social Care Forum is a place for everyone interested in social care to get together, share ideas and experiences, learn from each other, and get inspired. The next few months will be an information gathering exercise, so please log on to: **www.socialcareforum.scot** and add details and photos of your church's social care projects. It's easy to do and your information will be uploaded immediately. Please help us to inform, connect and inspire by contributing to this exciting new web resource for churches.

'Heart for Art' receives £230,000 boost from Life Changes Trust

CrossReach's 'Heart for Art' project has received a £230,000 funding boost from The Big Lottery funded Life Changes Trust. Allan Logan, Director of Services to Older People said: "Our exciting initiative, 'Heart for Art', has promoted and enabled the medium of creative art to impact positively on the lives of many people with dementia across Scotland, and those closely connected. The funding will ensure the project remains sustainable over the next three years as well as provide the security for further developments in this transformational work." Anna Buchanan, Director of the Life Changes Trust dementia programme said: "Because of the stigma associated with dementia, many people living with dementia stop taking part in activities that may have given them great pleasure in the past, or which allowed them to mix with their peers. Others believe that, because of their dementia, they will be unable to learn a new skill. Initiatives like 'Heart for Art' challenge this stigma and bring people together in a dementia friendly community of interest where they have opportunities to be part of something that is meaningful to them. Through



the medium of the art, and through creative workshops, they can express themselves and connect with others. This funding will help CrossReach continue with the great work that they do for those with dementia and those who care for them across Scotland." Currently, there are seven Heart for Art groups around Scotland with plans to open more in the coming months. The latest figures suggest there are 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland and that number is set to double by 2038.



CrossReach celebrates staff achievements

CrossReach staff from services across Scotland joined together for the annual Service of Celebration in Edinburgh and were presented with certificates to recognise qualifications gained in the past year.



The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison, gave an address on the parable of the Good Samaritan and related it to the caring work that CrossReach does for so many vulnerable and needy people. He said that CrossReach staff are 'an inspiration to us all' and that he was humbled and honoured to be associated with them. Earlier, the four main awards went to Ashley Reid, The Elms Care Home (Adult Learner of the Year); Carol Brackenridge, Charis House (Award for Excellence); Vera Lumsden, CrossReach Counselling Moray (Volunteer of the Year); Margaret Cassidy, South Beach House (Employee of the Year).

Margaret (pictured right) was also presented with a leather bound bible to mark 40 years' service with CrossReach.

A total of 133 staff gained new qualifications (including SVQ levels 3 and 4, HNC, PDA and BSc Information Technology), while 28 staff had 20 years' service and five reached the 30 years milestone. Guest speaker Andy Lowndes from 'Playlist for Life' (one of our partner organisations in delivering innovative support for people that have dementia) congratulated CrossReach on being the first organisation to have Dementia Ambassadors in all its residential services for Older People.



'Thrive' project is thriving!

Perth Prison Visitors' Support and Advice Centre works in partnership with a number of agencies one of these being 'Thrive'. This project is led by Barnardo's Scotland in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council, Angus Council, CrossReach and Enable, and associate partners Perth Prison Service, Just Play and NHS Tayside. 'Thrive' works with children who have a parent in prison aims to improve outcomes for children under 5 and their families who are affected by parental imprisonment and promote their access to community supports. They work through a relationship-based and client-led approach. The work takes place both in prison and in the community, uniquely crossing both to integrate a family led service. Minister for Children & Young People, Fiona McLeod MSP, joined all of the partners in Perth Concert Hall recently to showcase 'Thrive'. Over the last 17 months the project has given support to 30 families in Perth & Kinross and Angus - the families include 40 children under the age of 5.



CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

Prayer Diary 1 Jun 2015

MORVEN DAY SERVICES, KILMARNOCK
MORVEN OFFERS SUPPORT TO ADULTS WITH A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS LIVING IN EAST AYRSHIRE.

As staff minister in the vast and complex area of mental health, pray that they would not lean on their own understanding but remember that Christ once walked where they walk, stood where they stand, felt what they feel and so he understands their circumstances.

Help us realise that when God says no, it's because he doesn't want us to have second best or to settle for less, but has greater things ahead.

Give thanks that the centre provides a supportive environment where people can learn new skills, meet and make new friends.

The Church of Scotland Social Care Council

Free CrossReach 'widget' for your website

A new 'widget' featuring the weekly CrossReach Prayer Diary is now available for church websites. Following a successful pilot, the free resource is now being rolled out to all churches and will be developed to also include news from CrossReach job vacancies and the CrossReach shop.

CrossReach's Head of Service for Business Development Elizabeth Hay said: "We would be delighted if every Church of Scotland congregation added the widget to their website. Through prayer, our work together can reach and change the lives of those we serve in Christ's name."

If you would like to be sent the link for your church website, please e-mail: hugh.brown@crossreach.org.uk.

