

General Assembly 2016 special edition



Scottish Living Wage

CrossReach has been instructed to work with Church of Scotland trustees in a bid to secure funding to enable it to pay all of its staff the Scottish Living Wage. The request to approach the Council of Assembly comes after it emerged that extra funding allocated to local authorities by the Scottish Government only applies to CrossReach Care and Support staff and not workers like cooks, catering assistants, cleaners and gardeners. The General Assembly has a long standing commitment to pay all staff the Scottish Living Wage, which is being increased to

£8.25 per hour on October 1st 2016. CrossReach is one of the biggest organisations of its kind in Scotland and provides around 70 services at locations across the country. It has an annual expenditure of £45 million and employs 1,858 people.

Dr. Sally Bonnar, who has just stood down after 3 years as convener of the Social Care Council (CrossReach), said: "It is our job to keep pressing for appropriate funding for social care. Understandably we know that the public purse is not infinitely expandable and there are serious funding issues for all sorts of services across the country. So while we need to be realistic we have a responsibility to our staff to keep pressing for that funding." Dr. Bonnar said CrossReach welcomed the additional funding allocated by the Scottish Government to Local Authorities in order to address the payment of the living wage to care and support staff but questions over how social care services are resourced in future must be asked: "It is a question of how can we be creative with the resources we have to get the care that people need and are entitled to? The deliverance passed by the General Assembly instructed us to work with the Council of Assembly to seek to achieve the living wage for all staff as soon as possible. We already work with the finance group and will continue to do that but the Church does not have infinite resources either." Dr. Bonnar said CrossReach would continue to press funding bodies for extra resources.



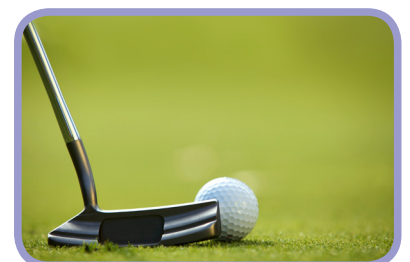
Dementia support

CrossReach has agreed to examine a proposal brought forward by the Rev. Catherine Collins of Broughty Ferry New Kirk near Dundee to promote dementia friendly church congregations. She added that help and support provided to people across the Church was piecemeal and a more joined up, nationally recognised approach was needed. Dr. Bonnar said the idea would be examined and a report would be brought before the General Assembly next year: "I have

spoken to Catherine about this and I think what she is looking for is something like a badge that congregations can achieve so they are recognised as people with an interest and expertise in dementia. I think it is great idea. It is a grassroots church movement and Catherine is looking for some resources to help plan that, and provide training and induction courses to help congregations develop certain standards."

Golf challenge

Rt. Rev. Dr. Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly, announced that the Moderator's Challenge this year would be golf related and raise money in aid of CrossReach's Children and Family Services. Dr. Barr was a schoolboy golf champion and had aspirations to be a professional in the sport before going into the ministry. Details of the challenge on Thursday 22nd September and how to book a place can be found overleaf.



Lord High Commissioner visits The Elms

During the General Assembly, the Queen's representative, the Lord High Commissioner, visited The Elms Care Home in Edinburgh. Baron Hope of Craighead and his wife were shown round the Morningside home which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Greeted by Allan Logan (Director, Services to Older People) the guests viewed the garden designed and cared for exclusively by the residents, before coming into the home for a discussion about dementia and the support offered by the service. The faint strains of the Glenn Miller

Orchestra could be heard in the background as they passed the Music Room to visit the recently established Sensory Room. On entering, it was clear that something special takes place to unlock deeply hidden memories and joys through connections made with interests and experiences from the past. Service Manager Kelly Ireland and her team described the specialist assessment tools used to ensure each individual has the appropriate support they need and want, before providing

an overview of the recent introduction of Dementia Mapping. Everyone agreed with the statement made by His Grace as he left – it had been 'an uplifting experience' and one which will live on at The Elms for some time.



Heart and Soul 2016

Thousands of folk braved mixed weather conditions in Princes Street Gardens to enjoy an unforgettable afternoon at Heart and Soul. This year's theme was 'People of the Way' and CrossReach's marquee featured signposts with true life stories of some of our customers and staff. Children took part in a wordsearch competition and were able to try catching fish which they coloured in and attached to a special sign spelling out 'CrossReach'. There was also a chance to travel on the journey with us by walking a mile on a treadmill - and even the Lord High Commissioner 'walked the walk'!



Feeling below par?

MODERATOR'S GOLF CHALLENGE

for CrossReach Children and Family Services

Thursday 22nd September 2016 at The Royal Burgess,
Edinburgh

Bacon roll, Four Ball and two-course lunch

Secure your place now at: crossreachevents.org.uk

*Registration opens
on Monday 6th June*



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353

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