

In April 2017 the Scottish Government wrote to Local Authorities, Integration Authorities and Health Boards to confirm an additional £7million resource in addition to the £100million provided to support social care.

The £7million was allocated to Health Boards for onward distribution to Integration Authorities and comprised £5million for war pensions and £2million to assist with preparations for commencement of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 on the 1st April 2018.

The Scottish Government did not stipulate what the funding should be used for but stated: *'With regard to use of the £2 million, it is of course a matter for individual Integration Authorities to decide how they spend this to support implementation of the Carers Act.'*

In December 2018 The Coalition of Carers in Scotland and Shared Care Scotland sent out a Freedom of Information request to all local authority areas in Scotland asking for details of what the £2million for preparations for the Carers Act had been spent on.

Summary of Findings

- We received a response from 29 local authority areas. This means that we can account for £1.827m of the £2m.
- Of the £1.827m, £1.305m was allocated to assist with preparations for the commencement of the Carers Act and £0.522m was used by Health and Social Care Partnerships for other purposes or was not spent in 2017/2018. This means that over one quarter of the funding was not used for its intended purpose.
- The funding that was used for preparations for the Carers Act was used for a variety of purposes, outlined in Figure 3. The largest allocation was to local carer support organisations (£466k) followed by local authority costs relating to implementation (£224k) and posts within local authorities (£184k)

Figure 1: How funding has been allocated

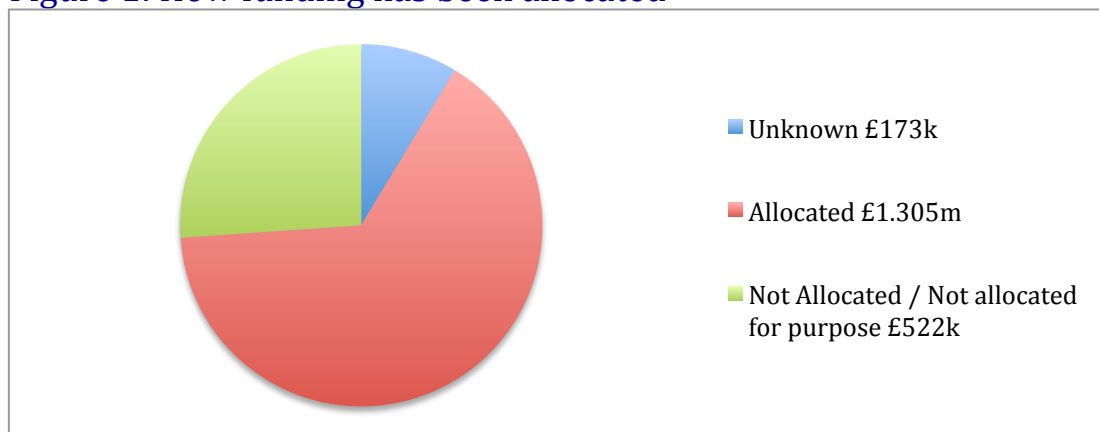


Figure 2: Breakdown by Local Authority Area

Responses were received from 29 Local Authorities. Figure 2 outlines the amount spent on preparations for the commencement of the Carers Act by each integrated authority. For those areas who did not allocate funding for this purpose an explanation is included, where received, in Table 1

Figures have been rounded up to the nearest £1,000. Total funding £1.305m*¹

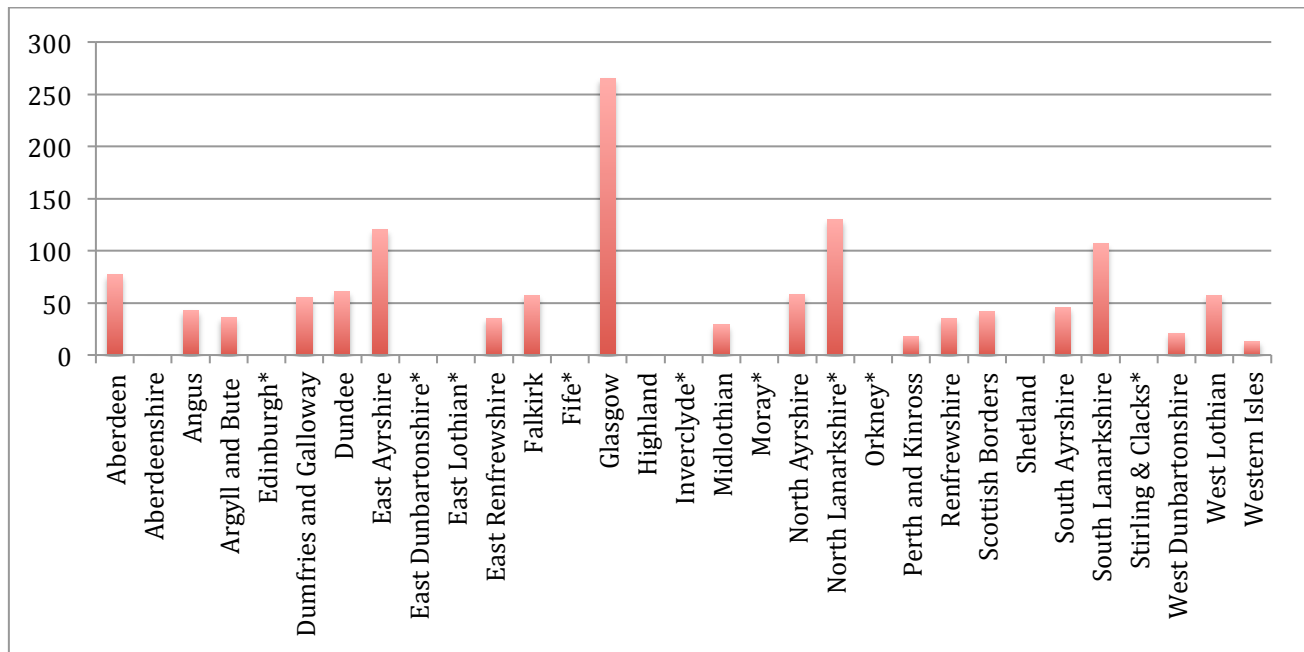


Table 1

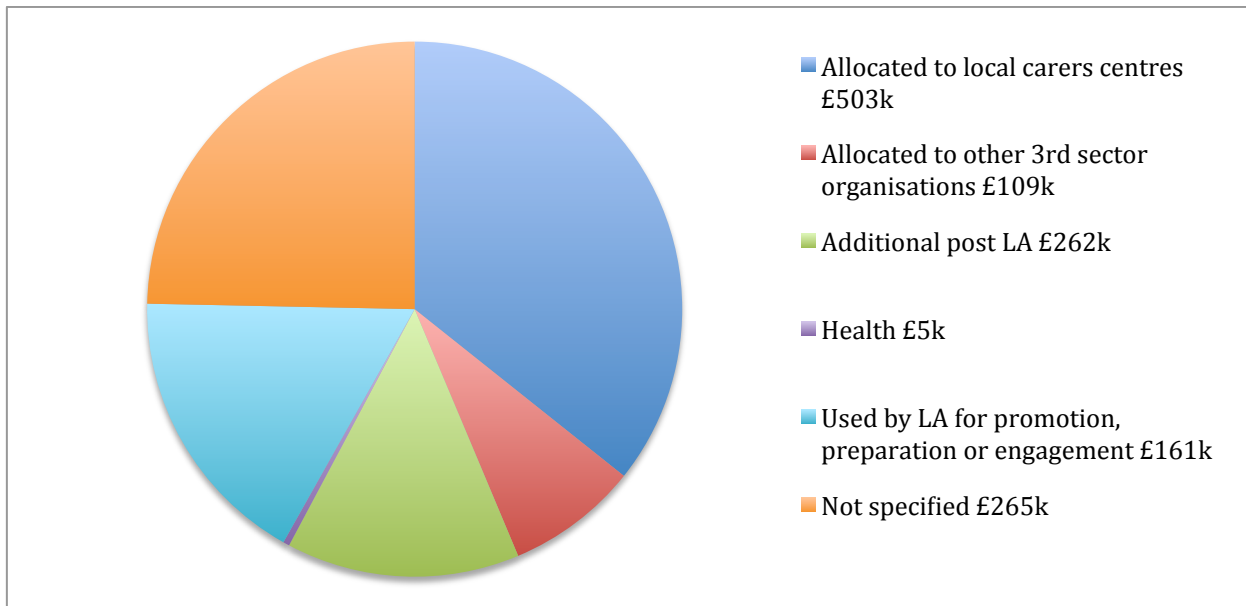
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| No responses were received from 3 areas: Aberdeenshire, Highlands and Shetland | |
| Edinburgh | Has not allocated the funding yet |
| East Dunbartonshire | Did not spend it in 2017/18. Have said it will be spent in 2018/19 |
| East Lothian | Said they did not receive the funding |
| Fife | Used to fund 2 positions within Fife Council Health and Social care Services |
| Inverclyde | Said the money will be used to review policies and process in preparation for implementation of the Act |
| Moray | Said the funding available was not allocated directly to any specific area in adult services to support the introduction of the Carers Act |
| North Lanarkshire | Spent an additional £182,000 on preparations for the Act (we have only recorded the funding they were allocated) |

¹ A breakdown of figures is included in the Appendix

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| Orkney | Said the funding is being used for consultation and engagement in 2019 |
| Stirling | Said they had no knowledge of the funding |

Figure 3: What the funding was used for

Figure 3 outlines broadly what the funding was used for. Funding was used for a variety of purposes, such as training and awareness raising, enhancing and extending carer support, facilitating carer engagement, employing additional staff members and developing eligibility criteria, Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements.



Conclusions

This was a small resource to assist with preparations for the Carers Act. It is therefore disappointing to see that more than a quarter of it was not used for its intended purpose.

It appears that the way in which the funding was provided is a contributing factor. Two areas said they had never received the money. Other areas did not use the funding for its intended purpose.

There is some evidence that those areas that did invest the funding in preparations for the Carers Act are further ahead in terms of fully implementing the Act. For example, one area invested the money in awareness raising for carers and evidence from our recent survey showed a higher percentage of carers from this area knew their rights in relation to the Carers Act.²

² Survey by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, November 2018 (over 1,000 responses from carers)

Appendix

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| Aberdeen | £77 |
| Aberdeenshire | No response |
| Angus | £43 |
| Argyll and Bute | £36 |
| Edinburgh* | |
| Dumfries and Galloway | £55 |
| Dundee | £61 |
| East Ayrshire | £120 |
| East Dunbartonshire* | |
| East Lothian* | |
| East Renfrewshire | £35 |
| Falkirk | £57 |
| Fife* | |
| Glasgow | £265 |
| Highland | Not response |
| Inverclyde* | |
| Midlothian | £29 |
| Moray* | |
| North Ayrshire | £58 |
| North Lanarkshire* | £130 |
| Orkney* | |
| Perth and Kinross | £18 |
| Renfrewshire | £35 |
| Scottish Borders | £42 |
| Shetland | No response |
| South Ayrshire | £46 |
| South Lanarkshire | £107 |
| Stirling & Clacks* | |
| West Dunbartonshire | £21 |
| West Lothian | £57 |
| Western Isles | £13 |
| | 1,305 |

* See explanation on Page 2