

# Respite Weeks Data 2014: Shared Care Scotland Summary

Date: November 2014

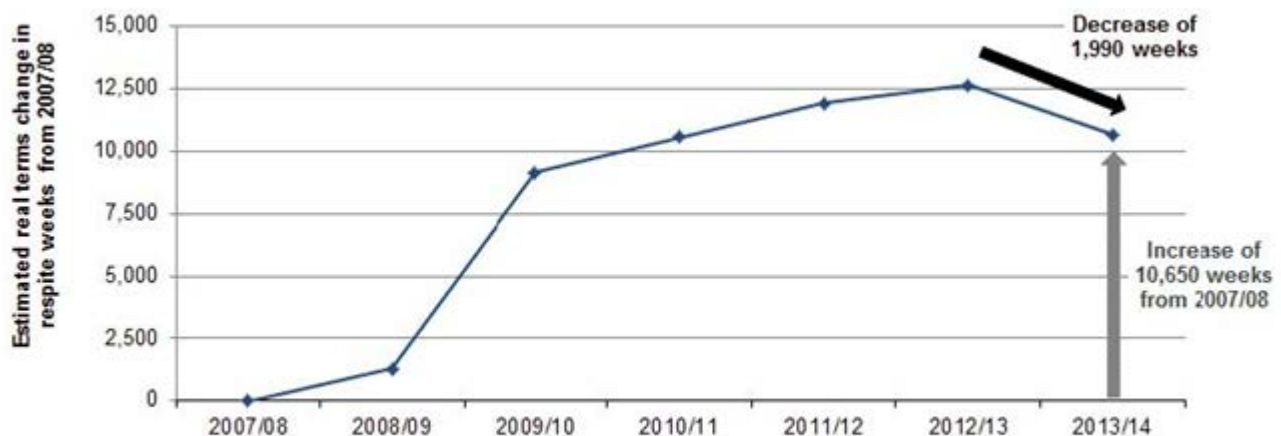
The Scottish Government recently released the 2014 data for the provision of respite in Local Authority areas across Scotland. The statistics are presented in "respite weeks provided or purchased by local authorities" and then further broken down into "overnight" and "daytime" respite for three age groups: 0-17, 18-64 and 65+. Much of the data is only comparable on a year-to-year basis due to methodological changes that have taken place over time. However a number of helpful comparisons are possible.

[The full data can be downloaded at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/10/4559>]

According to Scottish Government figures the overall amount of Respite Weeks delivered in 2013/2014 fell by 1,990 weeks compared with the previous year. The report states that changes in how respite weeks are recorded, and the shift to individually arranged breaks using Self-directed Support, is making comparisons more difficult.

However, the Report concludes that... *'In terms of understanding the origin of the estimated real terms decrease in respite provision over the past year, it is thought that the likely combined effect of the known recording changes is to mask a somewhat larger real terms decrease in service provision.'*<sup>1</sup>

**Chart 1** - Estimated real terms changes in the provision of overnight and daytime respite weeks in Scotland, 2007/08 to 2013/14



Source: Audit Scotland SPI data 2007/08 - 2008/09, Scottish Government 2009/10 - 2013/14.

Note: Estimated real terms changes are based on changes in methodology between years, as explained in Section 4.

<sup>1</sup> Respite Care Scotland 2014, Official Statistics Publication for Scotland, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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In total 13 local authority areas reported decreases in respite weeks last year with the largest decrease coming from Glasgow (-23%). Were all the figures for Glasgow to be excluded from the Scotland level estimates this would result in an increase of 2,810 weeks between 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 rather than a decrease of 1,990 weeks.

Despite the drop in weeks last year, the report concludes the total overnight and daytime respite provision recorded in 2013/14 '*continues to represent an estimated real terms increase of 10,650 respite weeks (6.2%) on 2007/08*'.

## Shared Care Scotland's Response

We appreciate the considerable effort that goes into producing this data both at the local authority level and within Scottish Government. The purpose is to monitor progress against the government's 2008 national commitment to deliver and maintain an additional 10,000 weeks of respite care across Scotland. These additional weeks are measured against a baseline figure calculated in 2007/2008.

Announcing this commitment at the time, then Health Minister Shona Robison said:

*"It is of great importance that we support those who selflessly give their time to support a loved one. We need to ensure that carers do not neglect their own health and are able to take short breaks when they need them."*

However, it is interesting to consider the demographic changes that have happened over the intervening years. If we factor in the population changes that have taken place a different picture emerges.

From our analysis of the data we have produced the following table to take account of these changes in each age category. The right hand column shows the resultant net change in respite weeks since 2007/2008.

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Change in Respite Provision 2007/08 to 2013/14					
Age Group	07/08 (**revised baseline) in weeks	Population Change 07/08 to 13/14	Respite in 13/14 required to maintain provision at 07/08 levels after population change, in weeks	Respite delivered in 13/14, in weeks. Increase/decrease from 07/08 baseline in brackets	Net change in respite provision pro rata to population change 07/08 to 13/14
0-17	23,090	-1.6%	22,720 (-370)	22,060 (-1,030)	-660
18-64	70,950	3.7%	73,573 (2,623)	72,540 (1,590)	-1,033
65+	98,380	10.4%	108,611 (10,231)	108,490 (10,110)	- 121
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,420</b>	-	<b>204,904 (12,484)</b>	<b>203,090 *(10,650)</b>	<b>-1,814 weeks</b>
*totals may not add up exactly due to rounding					
**revised baseline includes increases in respite provision due to improved recording in subsequent years					

Taking account of population changes the table shows a reducing level of respite in each age category pro rata and an effective overall net loss of 1,814 weeks since 2007/2008 compared to the published additional 10,650 weeks. This application of the data perhaps provides an additional and somewhat different picture of what is happening on the ground.

Going forward we would therefore urge national and local government to keep under review its short breaks policies and funding. They must ensure there is an adequate level of response to deliver the promised improvements in respite care, and that these keep pace with demographic changes. As the Minister said when launching the manifesto commitment,

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*"As we see Scotland's demographic change and people living longer, this becomes an even greater issue with the role of carers very much at the fore."*

The wide variation in levels of provision continues to be a concern. 11 out of 32 local authorities are reporting less respite care than measured 6 years ago when the commitment was introduced. This suggests carers and the people they care for continue to experience a 'postcode lottery' when it comes to accessing much needed breaks. This needs to be addressed. All local authorities received additional central government funding in return for their commitment to this target and should therefore be accountable.

If local authorities are reporting less weeks as a result they say of undercounting certain provision in annual returns, or because local demand for breaks is reducing, then this needs to be carefully justified. All local authorities must of course be transparent with carers and families about how they measure improvements in respite care, and publish evidence to back this up.

## About Shared Care Scotland

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Shared Care Scotland is a national charity which exists to support the development and improvement of short break services for carers and the people they care for. Our services include:

- An online and telephone enquiry service to help carers and service users find short break and respite services that best match their needs
- General information and advice on all matters relating to short break services
- Events, networks, publications and learning resources to share knowledge, experience and successful practice
- The commissioning of research to improve policy and practice
- Management of the Short Breaks Fund on behalf of the National Carer Organisations and the Scottish Government

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Increase/Decrease in Respite Weeks by Age Groups 2007/08 to 2013/14				
Council Area	07/08 to 13/14 Age 0-17	07/08 to 13/14 Age 18-64	07/08 to 13/14 Age 65+	07/08 to 13/14 All Age Groups
Aberdeen City	-140	-1910	170*	-1870
Aberdeenshire	80	350	1380	1770
Angus	110	240	650	1010
Argyll & Bute	-190	130	-780	-840
Clackmannanshire	140	-50	-460	-370
Dumfries & Galloway	30	490	-110	420
Dundee City	-230	380	1470	1630
East Ayrshire	340	730	200*	1270
East Dunbartonshire	220	500	1090	1800
East Lothian	150	-10	250	400
East Renfrewshire	200	420	-830	-190
Edinburgh, City of	-550	-1270	1210	-620
Eilean Star	50	0*	280	330
Falkirk	20	-90	20*	-50
Fife	-100	1720	1580	3190
Glasgow City	-1220	-5320	-3850	-10400
Highland	50	-220	440	250
Inverclyde	-160	-930	-470	-1570
Midlothian	250	380	910	1520
Moray	-60	-50	400	290
North Ayrshire	-130	2110	-500	1480
North Lanarkshire	230	1670	-150	1750
Orkney Islands	40	-10	-320	-290
Perth and Kinross	-40	870	1940	2770
Renfrewshire	-180	-480	150*	-510
Scottish Borders	90	150	470	700
Shetland Islands	330	220	930	1490
South Ayrshire	90	500	750	1340
South Lanarkshire	-160	1030	1940	2810
Stirling	-390	300	310	220
West Dunbartonshire	-20	-480	-380	-880
West Lothian	130	200	1440	1780
Scotland	-1030	1590	10110	10650

\* these figures represent a real terms reduction in provision after demographic changes are applied