

## Reshaping Care for Older People: The Contribution of Faith Communities

### Response from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

#### Part 1

These details are primarily to help us ascertain the spread of responses, both geographic, denominational and community. However the contact information you provide will allow us to include your faith community in the report we provide to your local Reshaping Care partners. This will help you strengthen your local links with health, social care, housing and community and voluntary services for older people.

Please tick the faith that applies to you:

Christian – Roman Catholic		Hindu	
Christian- Protestant		Jewish	X
Christian- Other		Baha'i	
Muslim		Other (please specify) –	
Sikh		No Faith	

#### **1. About your organisation**

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)  
222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow, G46 6UE  
0141 638 6411 / [scojec@scojec.org](mailto:scojec@scojec.org) / [www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)

**Local Council / Health Board Area:** Scotland-wide

#### **2. About you**

**Your Name:** Leah Granat

**Your role:** Research and Publications Officer

**Contact number:** 0141 638 6411 / 07887 488 100

Email: [scojec@scojec.org](mailto:scojec@scojec.org)

#### **The Scottish Jewish Community**

According to the 2001 census<sup>1</sup>, 8365 people in Scotland identified as currently Jewish and/or having been brought up Jewish, with 6448 people identifying as “currently belonging to the Jewish religion”. However, it is likely that these numbers significantly under-record the true figure, given that the questions were voluntary. Many older members of the community, especially Holocaust survivors, are reluctant to identify themselves as Jewish in any official documents, and a Jewish Policy Research survey of the Jews of Leeds found that 18% of respondents did not answer the voluntary question on religion in the 2001 English census. This figure is likely to be higher in Scotland, since the question was “What religion, religious denomination, or body do you belong to?” rather than “What is your religion, faith, or belief?” as in England and

<sup>1</sup> The results of the 2011 census will not be available until later this year.

Wales. The Scottish question thus excludes many Jewish people in Scotland who do not “belong to” any Jewish organisation, perhaps because they live in areas where there is no community to belong to, or who regard themselves as ethnically but not religiously Jewish.

In 2001 there were people who responded that they were Jewish in every one of the 32 council areas of Scotland. The census data showed that about half of the entire Jewish population of Scotland lived in East Renfrewshire, where they make up 3.5% of the local population. A further 1,119 Jews were in Glasgow City (17% of the Scottish total), and 790 in the City of Edinburgh (12%).

The Jewish community in Scotland was on average older than wider Scottish society, and some 2.5% lived in a medical or care establishment – the highest proportion of all religious groups in Scotland. 30% of people who responded that they were Jewish were of pensionable age, compared to 19% of the general population. The difference is even more marked for those aged seventy-five and over, of whom 16% responded that they were Jewish compared to 7% nationally. The comparable figure of 12% in England confirms that younger Jews have tended to leave Scotland to live and work elsewhere.

The *Being Jewish in Scotland* project<sup>2</sup>, carried out by the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) during 2012, to find out more about the variety of experience of Jewish people in Scotland, and encourage them to identify the issues that are important to them, held several focus groups specifically targeted at older people. Many people attending these expressed concern about the future of the community and of Jewish life in Scotland. They recalled a life in which there were many Jewish shops, many places to socialise, and no difficulty meeting a future husband or wife within the Jewish community.

*There were all these places to go to, there was a girls club, we really had a very happy life. (F, over 75, Glasgow)*

*There was a Jewish Institute where the couples used to meet (M, over 75) It was a full Jewish life so many years ago, but as someone’s said they’ve pulled the plug. There’s not many Jews now. Everything’s changed. (F, over 75, Glasgow)*

*An awful lot of Jewish shops went. The Gorbals went. (M, over 75, Glasgow)*

Many told us about children who had moved away from Scotland, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren who lived in Israel or in England. The reality of the ‘exodus’ means that grandchildren grow up far from their grandparents, sometimes speaking a different language (in exactly the same way that those very grandparents, mostly children of immigrants themselves, grew up far away from their own grandparents).

In response to this, SCoJeC set up *Jewish Inter-Links*<sup>3</sup>, a pilot project to teach elderly people living at home or in residential accommodation, to use e-mail, skype, etc in order to maintain contact with grandchildren and great-grandchildren who do not live nearby.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.scojec.org/news/2012/12vii\\_bjis/bjis.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2012/12vii_bjis/bjis.html)

<sup>3</sup> Jewish Inter-Links – ICT training to combat isolation and link Jewish families  
[www.scojec.org/news/2012/12viii\\_inter-links/inter-links.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2012/12viii_inter-links/inter-links.html)

## Relevant organisations in the Jewish Community

### 1) Representative organisations

**The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)**<sup>4</sup> is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland comprising Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Tayside and Fife, as well as the more loosely linked groups of the Jewish Network of Argyll and the Highlands, and of students studying in Scottish Universities and Colleges. SCoJeC is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438, and its aims are to advance public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community. It works with others to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality, and represents the Jewish community in Scotland to government and other statutory and official bodies on matters affecting the Jewish community.

In preparing this response we have consulted widely among members of the Scottish Jewish community.

**The Glasgow Jewish Representative Council**<sup>5</sup> represents the Jewish community of Glasgow and West of Scotland. It fosters good relations between the community and other local religious and civic bodies, and provides a democratic forum for local synagogues and welfare, educational, social and cultural organisations.

### 2) Religious organisations

Currently Glasgow has four Orthodox synagogues and one Reform synagogue<sup>6</sup>; Edinburgh has one Orthodox synagogue and one Liberal community which does not have its own building<sup>7</sup>. Both Aberdeen<sup>8</sup> and the newly renamed Tayside and Fife Jewish Community<sup>9</sup> in Dundee also have synagogues, and small but flourishing communities.

### 3) Welfare Organisations

The majority of the Jewish Community's welfare organisations are based in East Renfrewshire, and only operate in the East Renfrewshire and Glasgow areas, but a few provide a Scotland-wide service. A list of local welfare organisations can be found on the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council website. These include:

#### **Jewish Care Scotland**<sup>10</sup>

In a unique partnership with East Renfrewshire Council CHCP, Jewish Care Scotland provides a statutory social work service and registered Day Care Services to the

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<sup>4</sup> Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) [www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)

<sup>5</sup> Glasgow Jewish Representative Council [www.glasgowjewishrepCouncil.org/](http://www.glasgowjewishrepCouncil.org/)

<sup>6</sup> Giffnock Synagogue [www.giffnockshul.co.uk/](http://www.giffnockshul.co.uk/); Newton Mearns Synagogue [www.nmhc.org.uk/](http://www.nmhc.org.uk/); Garnethill Synagogue [www.sjac.org.uk/archives/garnethill.html](http://www.sjac.org.uk/archives/garnethill.html); Langside Synagogue; Glasgow Reform Synagogue [www.grs.org.uk/](http://www.grs.org.uk/)

<sup>7</sup> Edinburgh Synagogue [www.ehcong.com/](http://www.ehcong.com/); Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community [www.eljc.org/](http://www.eljc.org/)

<sup>8</sup> Aberdeen Synagogue [www.aberdeenebrew.org.uk/](http://www.aberdeenebrew.org.uk/)

<sup>9</sup> Tayside and Fife Jewish Community [www.scojec.org/communities/tfjc/index.html](http://www.scojec.org/communities/tfjc/index.html)

<sup>10</sup> Jewish Care Scotland [www.jcarescot.org.uk](http://www.jcarescot.org.uk)

Jewish community in the area, as well as some Scotland-wide social work services and support. Approximately one fifth of their staff is either seconded from East Renfrewshire Council or have salaries covered by the council. Jewish Care Scotland also receives some additional income from Glasgow City Council for individuals who are using their services. In addition to statutory provision, non-statutory support and advocacy is provided by workers employed solely by the charity. Jewish Care Scotland volunteers supplement the service in a variety of roles including befriending.

### **Cosgrove Care<sup>11</sup>**

Cosgrove Care is a registered social care provider which offers support services across a very wide age range, supported living, floating support, and supported employment opportunities to people with learning disabilities and people with mental health issues. Whilst Cosgrove Care contracts are primarily with East Renfrewshire Council, they also provide services to individuals in surrounding local authorities, and receive requests for services from further afield.

### **Newark Care**

Newark Care is a Registered Charity that operates two purpose-built, 40-bed registered care homes for the elderly in East Renfrewshire, offering residential, nursing, and palliative care, and providing kosher catering, and an on-site synagogue at each location.

### **Arklet Housing Association<sup>12</sup>**

Arklet Housing Association (formerly Glasgow Jewish Housing Association) is a major provider of social housing in East Renfrewshire. Arklet Housing Association works in close co-operation with Jewish Care Scotland and Cosgrove Care, and operates two developments specifically for the Jewish community, with kosher facilities, as well as mainstream housing in both East Renfrewshire and Glasgow.

### **Association of Jewish Refugees<sup>13</sup>**

The Association of Jewish Refugees is a UK-wide organisation that provides an extensive range of social and welfare services, and grants financial assistance to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. It also supports educational and research projects to teach young people about the Holocaust.

## **Part 2**

### **1. What support does your faith/community offer for older people?**

**Do you offer a lunch club / drop in café? If yes - how many days a week is this open?**

**Do you provide any clubs / day activities for older people? If yes - how many days a week is this service open?**

There is a wide range of social activities available for older people in the Jewish community, but, with a few exceptions, these only operate in the East Renfrewshire area.

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<sup>11</sup> Cosgrove Care [www.cosgrovecare.org.uk](http://www.cosgrovecare.org.uk)

<sup>12</sup> Arklet Housing Association [www.scottishhousingconnections.org/HA/Arklet/](http://www.scottishhousingconnections.org/HA/Arklet/)

<sup>13</sup> Association of Jewish Refugees [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

Jewish Care Scotland runs several clubs for elderly people, including:

- The “Aviv” club, for frail elderly people, which takes place twice a week.
- The “Sunday” club is organised jointly with the Jewish Blind Society, and is attended by people living independently as well as some living in sheltered accommodation, and in Cosgrove Care Supported accommodation.
- The “Thistle” club, for active elderly people, also takes place twice a week. A members committee helps with the organisation of the club, with Jewish Care Scotland providing staff and volunteers. The Thistle Bowling club also meets twice weekly, and is completely run by the members.
- The “Culture” club is also organised by the members themselves, and arranges trips to museums, theatres, etc, as well as group holidays.

In addition, Jewish Care Scotland facilitates appropriate social events according to the Jewish calendar, such as a *seder* service and meal for the festival of Pesach, and a Chanukah party attended by around 150 people.

Arklet Housing Association facilities a number of clubs, mostly, but not exclusively, for residents. These include:

- “Mousemates”, a computer club, which, similarly to SCoJeC’s “Inter-Links” project, employs volunteers to teach computer skills to residents, facilitating contact with family living outwith Scotland, as well as enabling residents to do online shopping.
- The “Get Together Group” brings together people living in Arklet’s very sheltered accommodation with isolated elderly people living independently.
- A gardening club.

The Association of Jewish Refugees organises monthly social events in both Glasgow and Edinburgh, often with a speaker or other activity. It also organises day trips to the seaside and countryside, and visits to the cinema, theatre, etc,

Cosgrove Care does not run any clubs, but has a wide range of day activities. Whilst these are not exclusively for older people, they are attended by a number of older people with learning disabilities, some of whom live in Cosgrove Care’s supported accommodation.

Newark Care also does not run clubs, but provides a wide range of social events and activities for residents of its two care homes, including musical and theatrical entertainments, personal reminiscence clubs, and activities appropriate to the Jewish calendar, such as *Purim*, *Chanukah*, and *Sukkot* parties.

Giffnock Synagogue runs a weekly “Friendship Club”, which meets for tea and chat, and sometimes also invites an entertainer, and Edinburgh Synagogue runs a twice-weekly Lunch Club.

### **Do you offer a home visiting, befriending or pastoral care activity?**

### **Do you support people with dementia?**

“Big Hearts”, run by Giffnock Synagogue, operates a befriending service, visiting isolated people, some of whom have dementia, living in their own or residential homes, and sometimes taking them out shopping or on trips. Similar, more informal, services are in place at Glasgow Reform Synagogue and Edinburgh Synagogue, and another is

currently being developed by Newton Mearns Synagogue. In addition, pupils at Edinburgh Synagogue's religious studies classes take gifts to older people, some of whom are housebound, before the festivals of Rosh HaShanah and Purim.

Jewish Care Scotland and Newark Care both provide services and activities for people with dementia. These vary, since all of their services are person-centered, and therefore specifically tailored to the needs of each individual, but they include social work services, in addition to participation in clubs and activities as detailed above. In addition, staff and volunteers at Cosgrove Care have attended specialist training to work with people with dementia.

**Do you have devotions / celebrations particularly designed for older people?**

**Do you offer a visiting service / religious activity to your local care homes?**

**Do you offer a visiting service or religious activity to your local hospital?**

The majority of religious services in the community are open to all, regardless of age, but the demographic of the community means that some synagogues have a predominantly elderly membership, and therefore attendance at services and activities. Synagogues generally hold a *kiddush* (refreshments) after daytime Shabbat and festival services, and this is an important social occasion for many, especially older and isolated members. In response to this need, the synagogues have capitalised on this opportunity, providing more substantial 'sit down' events with hot drinks, in some cases every week, and occasional guest speakers.

In addition to their regular services, Giffnock and Newton Mearns Synagogues each hold a "retired gentlemen's service" once a week, starting later in the morning than the regular service, and a weekly Shabbat morning synagogue service takes place in Westacres Care Home. This is also attended by some members of the community who do not live in the Care Home in order to ensure that there are enough people present for the service to take place.

Routine attendance at services also provides an opportunity to make sure that potentially vulnerable individuals are well, and several synagogues have a policy of contacting regular attenders who are unexpectedly absent from services, in order to check that they are alright. Langside Synagogue has a policy of referring people with particular needs, to relevant communal welfare organisations, and, in the past year, 25% of their members have received such referrals.

In addition to pastoral visits made by Rabbis to hospitalised members of the community in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas (neither the Aberdeen nor Tayside and Fife communities employ a Rabbi), volunteers in the Sick Visiting Association make regular visits to people in hospital throughout the Greater Glasgow area. They do, however, face some difficulties, since hospital administration claims that data protection regulations prevent them from passing on the names of Jewish people who might appreciate a visit, and, particularly in the case of some older members of the community, there is no family to pass information to the Association. As a result, they are sometimes asked "why didn't you visit me when I was in hospital", when the Association would have been only too pleased to do so, had they known of the hospitalisation.

## **2. What staff or volunteers do you have?**

**Do you have any paid members of staff specifically for older people?**

**Are volunteers involved in supporting older people? If yes - how many are involved during any one week and what activities do they undertake?**

The larger welfare organisations in the community employ both paid staff and volunteers, but the smaller organisations are run on an entirely voluntary basis. It is impossible to quantify how many volunteers are involved, since many regularly give their time to more than one organisation, some working entirely with older people, and others working across a wider age range.

In addition to all of the above, the activities undertaken by volunteers include administration, with many people donating their professional expertise in areas such as accountancy, legal advice, and fundraising.

**How many organisations/activities within your faith community are led by older people?**

Since the demographic of the community is of an ageing population, many activities are, of necessity, led by older people. However, as listed above, activities for older people that are also led by older people, include Jewish Care Scotland's Thistle and Culture Clubs, and Giffnock Synagogue's Friendship Club.

Cosgrove Care operates a user forum that enables its service users to discuss and make decisions about the activities and services provided by the organisation. In addition, it supports people with learning disabilities, including older people, to live in the community, to choose, plan, and book holidays both in the UK and abroad, and, where appropriate, to develop their own end of life plan.

**What training have you provided / accessed for your staff and volunteers that relates to your work with older people?**

Training, particularly for volunteers, varies widely between the different organisations. The larger organisations such as Jewish Care Scotland, Cosgrove, Care, and Arklet Housing Association, all provide training, either in-house or accessed from external bodies, including the local Council. Other organisations may tap in to training on an ad-hoc basis – Big Hearts volunteers, for example, have received some training from Jewish Care Scotland on issues such as confidentiality – but the majority of small organisations do not access any training, relying on skills that their volunteers have acquired elsewhere.

**What other training would be helpful for you to further develop your support for older people - and what would be the best way of accessing it?**

Lack of funding, and fear of 'scaring off' volunteers, deter some organisations from actively pursuing training opportunities, although most say that "in an ideal world", they would like their staff and volunteers to have greater access to training. The majority of small welfare organisations in the community operate on extremely limited funding – if any at all – so they would only be able to take advantage of training that was free or else at minimal cost. Furthermore, many of the volunteers have very little additional time to spare, so one-off events are generally more attractive than extended courses.

### **3. Finance**

**Do you receive any external funding to support these areas of work with older people? If yes please list any sources of regular funding**

Only three communal organisations receive external funding specifically for work with older people, Newark Care, which receives Council funding for some residents, Edinburgh Synagogue's lunch club, which receives a contribution from the Council to assist with the cost of heating and lighting, and the Association of Jewish Refugees, which receives funding from various Holocaust reparation funds. While some other organisations do receive external funding, this is either targeted at other specific areas, or for use across the whole range of their activities. Cosgrove Care, for example, receives external funding for work with people of any age who have a learning disability, and Jewish Care Scotland for the full range of its statutory social work activities. Jewish Care Scotland does not receive any public funding for the non-statutory work done by the charitable side of the organisation, so these activities, including for older people, are completely dependent on the organisation's ability to raise the necessary funds.

### **4. Collaborative working**

**Do you work collaboratively with other faith communities in delivering activities for older people? Do you work with other local community / council / health groups?**

No communal organisations are actively collaborating with other faith communities to deliver activities for older people, although some, such as Cosgrove Care, Newark Care, and Arklet Housing Association, provide services from people from outwith the Jewish community, and take advice from the relevant communities in order to ensure appropriate person-centred care. Some organisations said they would be interested in active collaboration with other faith communities, but warned that they have very little flexibility to allocate additional time for this.

As already stated above, Jewish Care Scotland works in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council to deliver social work services to the Jewish community, and the other large welfare organisations routinely work with organisations including the local council, local volunteer organisations such as Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire, and health organisations such as the Kirkton Service. None of the smaller welfare organisations, or the synagogues has any similar collaborations.

**What would help you to work with other faith communities / community / council / health groups?**

Several communal organisations would be interested in working with organisations from without the community to deliver services to, and provide activities for older people, but they do not have the time or resources to investigate the possibilities. A 'matchmaking' service to put appropriate organisations in touch with one another would be helpful, as would a newsletter in which interested groups could publicise their work in order to enable potential partner organisations to get in touch.

### **5. Reshaping Care for Older People**

**Have you previously heard about 'Reshaping Care for Older People'?**

**Have you been involved in any discussions / events about support for older people with your local Third Sector or Reshaping Care partnership leads?**

## **Would you like to be more connected with the work on Reshaping Care?**

**If yes - how would you like to be more involved and what do you think the benefits would be for older people?**

Some organisations were already aware of “Reshaping Care for Older People”, and had, indeed, carried out a “Reshaping Care” review of their activities in order to improve activities for and services to older people. The majority of smaller organisations were, however, unaware of “Reshaping Care”, but most would be interested to learn more about it.

### **6. Any other information**

#### **1) Demographic Problems**

i) A number of organisations, including in particular, the Tayside and Fife Jewish Community, and Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community, said that they are unable to provide activities and services for older people because their membership is too scattered to make this a realistic proposition. Whereas younger people living outwith – often far outwith – any settled Jewish community, may be willing and able to travel considerable distances to attend events, this becomes very difficult, if not impossible, for many older people, especially if they live in rural or island areas. We have been contacted by a number of people who have told us that they very happily brought up their family in a remote location, but now that their children have moved away, and their partner has died, they feel very isolated from the Jewish community, and long for contact with other Jewish people. Where possible, contact and support is offered on an informal one-to-one basis, but this is not always feasible, and not always enough to avert loneliness.

ii) Several organisations have had to discontinue activities for older people because, in a shrinking community, they no longer have the manpower to make these possible. Many volunteers in the Jewish community work very long hours, often for more than one organisation, willingly giving of their time, but it is still not possible to meet all the need, so, for example, Glasgow Reform Synagogue has had to discontinue its lunch club for older people.

#### **2) Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme**

Communal organisations are very conscientious about ensuring that people working in appropriate roles are members or the relevant Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme. The large welfare organisations are registered with Disclosure Scotland to submit applications themselves, and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities is registered to submit applications for all other organisations in the community.