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A  
Report  
from  
the  
Department  
of  
Public Health



**GREATER GLASGOW  
HEALTH BOARD**

**A HEALTH  
NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT  
OF CARERS IN  
GLASGOW  
1994**

**A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN  
GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD  
& STRATHCLYDE CARERS FORUM**

Survey undertaken by Siobhan Hair, Department of Public Health, Greater Glasgow Health Board in conjunction with Elaine Doidge and Val Millar, Strathclyde Carers Forum.

The help of members of the Department of Public Health and the Carers Support Strategy Sub-Group was invaluable in producing this report. Special thanks is extended to all the carers who responded to the survey.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A review of informal caring in Glasgow was carried out by the Department of Public Health, Greater Glasgow Health Board in conjunction with Strathclyde Carers Forum over a six month period from February to September 1994. The purpose of this study was to identify the health needs of carers, the services which they currently receive and the additional support which is required to meet the needs identified by carers.
- 1.2 This review of informal caring was carried out by means of a survey of the total population of carers known to Strathclyde Carers Forum. A self-completion questionnaire was used to elicit information from carers in the Greater Glasgow area about their roles and needs. Contact was made with leaders of carers' groups via Strathclyde Carers Forum. Group leaders then disseminated the questionnaires, covering letter and prepaid envelope to members of their groups at meetings. Individual carers who had made contact with Strathclyde Carers Form but who were not in contact with a group were sent a postal questionnaire, covering letter and prepaid envelope. A total of 283 questionnaires were received of which 260 were included in the analysis. The excluded questionnaires were from ex-carers and carers who lived outwith the Greater Glasgow area.

## 2. **Characteristics of carers**

- \* Eighty percent of carers in this survey were women and 20% were men.
- \* The majority of carers (52%) were aged 45 to 64 years of age.
- \* The majority of carers (37%) were caring for their spouse/partner, 28% were caring for a son/daughter, 27% for a father/mother, 8% for another relative, 1% for a friend and 1% for a neighbour.
- \* More men were caring for their spouse than women and more women were caring for their son or daughter than men.