Cross-Party Group on Palliative Care

1pm 10th September 2026

Minute

Present

MSPs

Bob Doris MSP
Marie McNair MSP
Michelle Campbell MSP
Miles Briggs MSP
Helen McDade MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Ewan Smith
Mark Hazelwood
David Cameron

Apologies

Jackie Baillie MSP
Adam Harley MSP

Agenda item 1 – Introductions and purpose of meeting

Bob Doris MSP welcome those present and outlined the purpose of this initial meeting of the CPG which was to discuss and agree the information to be submitted to enable the re-registration of the Group.

Agenda item 2 – MSP membership of the Group

MSP membership of the group was discussed. The following MSPs agreed to become members of the CPG on palliative care:

Bob Doris MSP SNP
Marie McNair MSP SNP
Michelle Campbell MSP SNP
Jackie Baillie MSP Labour (indicated in advance of the meeting)

Miles Briggs MSP Conservative
Helen McDade MSP Reform
Adam Harley MSP Liberal Democrats (indicated in advance of the meeting)

The meeting noted that collectively these MSPs met the requirements for re-registration in terms of total number of MSPs and minimum party representation.

Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that Stuart McMillan MSP (SNP) also wished to become a member of the Group and his name was added to the re-registration from before submission.

Agenda item 3 – Election of Office Bearers

Bob Doris MSP was elected unanimously to be Convenor of the Group, having been proposed by Marie McNair MSP and seconded by Miles Briggs MSP.

Marie McNair MSP was elected unanimously as Deputy Convenor having been proposed by Bob Doris MSP and seconded by Miles Briggs MSP.

Bob Doris MSP indicated to other MSPs present that if anyone subsequently wished to become an additional Deputy Convenor then that would be welcomed.

Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care (SPPC), was proposed as Secretary and Treasurer to the Group by Marie McNair MSP and this was unanimously supported.

Agenda item 4 – Other information required for Re-registration

Those present agreed that the name and purpose of the Group should remain unchanged.

Topics which might be discussed at future meetings of the group over the following year were discussed and the following indicative list agreed: the implementation of the new SG strategy on palliative care; national standards for palliative care; palliative care and public service reform including opportunities to ensure the right care in the right place at the right time; hospices and NHS specialist palliative care provision; making decisions towards the end of life; hearing and understanding people's experiences of living with life shortening conditions, dying and bereavement; funding challenges.

The SPPC, who provided Secretariat to the Group, held the list of individual and organisational non-MSP members of the Group. The meeting agreed that this should continue to be maintained by the SPPC who should update it as necessary, and inform the Standards Clerks of changes as required.

Mark Hazelwood informed the meeting that Secretariat support for the Group provided by SPPC had a value of around £1200. The Group agreed that it should continue not to charge a subscription to members of the Group.

Agenda item 4 – Any other business

Miles Briggs MSP raised two items of business:

Firstly he expressed a wish that the Group should continue to hold its meetings in hybrid format. Other members of the Group agreed and noted that such meetings had made participation by a wide group of members possible. The meeting wished that the technical facilities which made hybrid meetings possible would continue to be made available to the Group by the parliamentary authorities.

Secondly Miles updated the meeting on the “Right to Palliative Care” Bill which he had brought in the last Parliament. Miles was in the process of holding discussions with the Non-governmental Bills Unit and also the Scottish Government. The purpose of the discussion was to inform a decision by Miles on whether to bring the Bill forward again in the current Parliament.

Finally the Group thanked the SPPC for its continuing support for the Group.