Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Convener
Bob Doris MSP

Vice-Conveners
Miles Briggs MSP
Colin Smyth MSP

Secretary
Mark Hazelwood

Minute of the meeting of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Attendance
Bob Doris MSP (Chair)
Miles Briggs MSP
Kate Forbes MSP
Colin Smyth MSP
Frances Bailey
Kate Briggs
Pauline Britton
Duncan Brown
David Cameron
Emma Carduff
Rev Margery Collin
Josaleen Connolly
Marina Copping
Amy Dalrymple
Morag Dixon
Maureen Fitzpatrick
Anne Finucane
Erna Haraldsdottir
Chloe Haseltine
Mark Hazelwood
Sue Hogg
Annabel Howell
Elinor Jayne
Gillian Keel
Jennifer Layden
Susan Lowes
Kirsty MacAlpine
Eilidh Macdonald
Murdina MacDonald
Margaret McKeith
Katrina Marshall
Richard Meade
Maria McGill
Irene McKie
Gordon McLaren
Clare Murphy
Kathryn Nattress
Maureen O'Neill
Euan Paterson
Rebecca Patterson
Anne Robb

CHSS
NHS Lanarkshire
Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
St Columba’s Hospice
Scottish Parliament
Marie Curie
Strathcarron Hospice
NHS Ayrshire and Arran
NHS Lothian/ SCYPPEx
Alzheimer Scotland
NHS Lanarkshire
General Public
Marie Curie
St Columba’s Hospice
Scottish Government
Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
CHAS
NHS Borders
Sue Ryder
Marie Curie
Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Marie Curie
MND Scotland
Hospice UK
NHS Fife
Scottish Care
NHS Lothian
Marie Curie
CHAS
Strathcarron Hospice
NHS Fife
St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Faith in Older People
RCGP
Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
NHS Tayside
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Bob Doris welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking Michael McMahon, the previous convenor for his long-term commitment to the cross party group, which dates back to when the group was originally convened in 1999, and is much appreciated by the palliative care community in Scotland. Those present were invited to briefly introduce themselves, and it was noted that a list of apologies would be included in the minute.

2. Election of Office Bearers

Bob Doris explained that there is a need to re-register the group following the election, and complete this within the next 2 weeks. This involves providing detail to the Standards Clerks about the purpose, membership, planned frequency of meetings, any financial support and some other administrative details. There is also a need to provide details of at least 5 MSP members of the group, and to elect at least 2 MSP office bearers.

Colin Smyth nominated Bob Doris as Convenor of the group. There being no further nominations, Bob Doris was appointed Convenor.

Bob Doris nominated Colin Smyth and Miles Briggs as Vice-Convenors of the group. There being no further nominations both were appointed joint Vice-Convenors.

Bob Doris nominated Mark Hazelwood as Secretary. There being no further nominations, Mark Hazelwood was appointed Secretary.

Kate Forbes MSP indicated that she would like to become a member of the group.

3. Matters arising from meeting of 10 February 2016

3.1 Progress on Implementing the Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care

Elizabeth Sadler, Head of Planning and Quality Division, at the Scottish Government told the group that the recently published Programme for Government re-affirms the Scottish Government’s commitment to the Strategic Framework for Action. She highlighted: the
SFA’s vision that by 2021 everyone in Scotland who needs palliative care will have access to it; that the SFA sets out an ambitious programme of work; and that the Scottish Government has allocated £3.5 million to delivery of the commitments set out in the framework. The Scottish Government has established a new National Implementation Advisory Group which met for the first time in June. Scottish Government has identified an expert to lead on each area of work set out in the framework. Elizabeth Sadler outlined the Scottish Government’s priorities as funding Healthcare Improvement Scotland to support improvement work, NES and SSSC looking at developing an education framework, and work to improve the quality of data available.

There was a brief opportunity for discussion, and the issue was raised of how spiritual care will be embedded in the implementation plan.

3.2 Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee: Inquiry into palliative care
Bob Doris was previously on the Health and Sport Committee when it undertook its inquiry into palliative care. The new session of parliament has brought with it a new Health and Sport Committee.

4. Presentations and Discussion: Palliative and End of Life Care Education
The Scottish Government made the following commitment within its Strategic Framework for Action:

“Commitment 3. We will support the workforce by commissioning NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council to develop a new palliative and end of life care Educational Framework. This will address the needs of the health and social care workforce and will be focused on fostering an integrated and collaborative approach to educational provision.”

Education: a hospice educator’s perspective
Dr Erna Haraldsdottir, Director of Education and Research, St Columba’s Hospice

Erna Haraldsdottir spoke about the need for the development of a new framework to be done with an awareness that:
- palliative care is complex
- palliative care education should mirror the hospice philosophy
- education must have connections with practice
- education must help people to become reflective palliative care practitioners
- we need to use practice-based opportunities so that people become confident in practice
- communication is very important
- there are lots of great resources already out there – we need to signpost to these rather than producing new information.
- people need to have time in their day learn from reflective practice.

She summarised that “education is what remains when one has forgotten what they learned at school” – education needs to enable people to respond to the situation, and only a small part of this is about factual knowledge.

Developing a new palliative and end of life care Educational Framework
Dr Lesley Whyte, Associate Director of Nursing and Midwifery, NHS Education for Scotland
Alison Upton, Learning and Development Manager, Scottish Social Services Council.

Alison and Lesley are Co Chairs of the National Steering Group on Education linked to the Strategic Framework for Action. They explained that NES and SSSC are working in partnership with a number of organisations, undertaking a journey of enquiry, and are conscious of the need
to make the best use of relevant resources, policy and organisations, and not to create anything new unless it is of added value. They are keen to ensure that they engage meaningfully with the workforce to find out what matters to learners. Three regional practice education coordinators have been recruited, and a National Education Advisory Group has been set up.

**Group discussion followed and included the following issues:**

- The need to support the workforce to support people with people all kinds of co-morbidities and illness pathways, including dementia in its various stages.
- The need for the framework to be of use and support to care workers and people working in care homes.
- The need to consider who will deliver education. For example Highland Hospice are currently exploring how the specialist knowledge held by staff can be of help to others such as GPs and Care Homes.
- In many situations, palliative care practitioners are the intervention, and education is extremely important in helping people to become true practitioners of palliative care.
- The difficulties faced in enabling staff to be released for education.
- The potential to integrate education into the workplace.

**5. Any other competent business**

**5.1 Future business for discussion**

Bob Doris gave people the opportunity to suggest future topics for discussion. Suggestions included:

- Continuing to link meetings to the commitments of the Strategic Framework for Action, for example Commitment 6.
- Discussion of the workforce and civic society – how do different organisations support the Scottish Government to implement the framework?
- A joint meeting with the cross party group on dementia when it has reconvened.
- Finishing each meeting a little early to allow time for networking.

**6 Date of next meeting**

Future meeting dates will be circulated as soon as possible. (Update: the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 December at 5.45pm.)