

**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 December 2016 at 5.45pm  
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament**

**Attendance**

Bob Doris MSP (Convener)  
Colin Smyth MSP  
Anas Sarwar MSP  
Paula Aldin-Scott, The ALLIANCE Neurological Programme  
Jeanette Byers, NHS Lothian  
Sandra Campbell, NHS Forth Valley  
Pat Carragher, CHAS  
Lara Antonia Celini, Humanist Society Scotland  
Margaret Mary Cowan, Kilbryde Hospice  
Derek Doyle, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care  
Geraldine Finnan, NHS Borders  
Lynn Griffin, University of Dundee  
Erna Haraldsdottir, St Columba's Hospice  
Trisha Hatt, Macmillan Cancer Support  
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care  
Annabel Howell, NHS Borders  
Elinor Jayne, Sue Ryder  
Eilidh Macdonald, Hospice UK  
Donald Macaskill, Scottish Care  
Maria McGill, CHAS  
Gordon McLaren, NHS Fife  
Helen McLaren, Member of the Public  
Richard Meade, Marie Curie  
John Miller, Action Duchenne  
Tanith Muller, Parkinson's UK  
Pete Ottery, Edinburgh Brass Band  
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care  
Sally Paul, University of Strathclyde  
Ian Somerville, GMC Scotland  
Janice A. Stewart, Barchester Healthcare  
Claire Turnbull, CHAS  
Stuart Wilson, Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland

**Apologies**

Miles Briggs MSP  
Frances Bailey, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland  
Pauline Britton, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care  
Patricia Brooks Young, NHS Lothian  
Susanne Cameron-Nielsen, Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland  
Hilary Ford, Marie Curie Edinburgh Hospice  
Sue Hogg, CHAS  
Rev Margery Collin, AHPCC

Amy Dalrymple, Alzheimer Scotland  
Morag Dixon, NHS Lanarkshire  
Joy Elliott, ABSCo  
Yvonne Grant, Muscular Dystrophy UK  
Irene Johnstone, BLF  
Katrina Marshall, NHS Lothian  
Libby Milton, Marie Curie Edinburgh Hospice  
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice  
Scott Murray, University of Edinburgh  
Maureen O'Neill, FioP  
Euan Paterson, RCGP  
Jane Duncan Rogers, Life and Death Coach  
Kim Rowan, Member of the Public  
Gillian Sherwood, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice  
Kenny Steele, Highland Hospice  
Elaine Stevens, IANPC  
Lorna Stewart, NHS Fife  
Sara Twaddle, HIS  
Susan Webster, MND Scotland  
Mandy Yule, Ayrshire Hospice

## 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Bob Doris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present were invited to briefly introduce themselves, and it was noted that a list of apologies would be included in the minute.

## 2. Matters arising from previous meeting

### 2.1 Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee interest in palliative care

The Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee wrote a letter to Shona Robison, requesting an update on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care (SFA), and has since received a reply from the Cabinet Secretary. Colin Smyth MSP, who is on the Committee informed the Cross Party Group that the Committee plan to consider the Cabinet Secretary's response before considering a further piece of work in this area. He will keep the Cross Party Group informed of any relevant developments.

## 3 Scottish Hospices Report: Working to address the challenges facing health and social care in Scotland

Mark Hazelwood updated the group that the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care and all Scottish Independent Voluntary Hospices have worked together to publish a new report which explores the many ways in which Scottish Independent Voluntary Hospices support the Scottish health and social care system. The report also addresses some common myths and misunderstandings about hospices. Mark also drew attention to other recent publications, including:

- The Scottish Atlas of Palliative Care, published by the University of Glasgow
- The Role of Hospice Care in Scotland, published by Hospice UK
- Dying to care: a report into social care at the end of life, published by Marie Curie, MND Scotland, APCSW and Hospice UK.
- Enough for Everyone: Challenging inequities in palliative care, published by Marie Curie

## 4. Presentations and Discussion: What can be done to encourage more open and supportive attitudes and behaviour relating to death, dying and bereavement in Scotland?

A series of 5-minute presentations looked at this issue from different perspectives:

*Public health palliative care in Scotland – setting the scene.*

Dr Gordon McLaren, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHS Fife and Chair of Good Life,

## Good Death, Good Grief

Gordon gave a brief introduction to public health palliative care and the [Discussion Paper](#) (attached) which had been circulated to the group as background to discussion. The paper, entitled *What next for public health palliative care in Scotland?* was produced by the [Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief \(GLGDGG\) stakeholder group](#). It:

- Takes stock of previous and ongoing work in this area in Scotland.
- Explores potential future work that can usefully be taken at a national level to promote more cultural openness about death, dying and bereavement in Scotland.

### *Death education in primary schools*

Dr Sally Paul, Lecturer in Social Work, University of Strathclyde

Sally gave a brief presentation about some of her work looking at death education in primary schools. (Presentation attached.)

### *Brass band participation in the To Absent Friends festival*

Peter Ottery, Secretary, Edinburgh Brass Band

Peter gave a brief presentation about the involvement of Edinburgh Brass Band in To Absent Friends festivals 2014-2016. (Presentation attached.)

### *Integrating National Approaches – Undergraduate Palliative and End of Life Nursing Education*

Lynn Griffin, Lecturer in Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Dundee

Lynn gave a brief presentation about her work to support undergraduate nursing students to have confidence dealing with death and dying. (Presentation attached.)

### *What next? Some ideas of potential areas for future work.*

Rebecca Patterson, Policy & Communications Manager, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

Rebecca gave a brief presentation focusing on section 3.3 of the [Discussion Paper](#), which explores potential future areas of work. (Presentation attached.)

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

- The group welcomed the GLGDGG Grief discussion paper for its considered approach and looked forward to seeing it widely disseminated.
- The group discussed how the very small amounts of money (circa £250) distributed via Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief's small grants scheme can act as a catalyst for some fantastic local work by all kinds of organisations and community groups. Questions were raised about how similar funding might be accessed in the future, what role the Scottish Government might play in this, and whether this issue might be worth raising with the Cabinet Secretary (perhaps by Colin Smyth via the Health and Sport Committee, or through a letter by Bob Doris MSP on behalf of the group).
- Attention was drawn to the important role that Care at Home and Housing Support Staff play with regard to palliative and end of life care, and the difficult circumstances under which staff are often required to undertake this work. Scottish Care is currently undertaking research (*Trees that bend in the wind*, due to be launched in February) which reveals the very real personal pressures workers are put under by contracts which demand strictly timed visits and an emphasis upon task which leaves little or no space to support, talk or console. Questions were raised by the group about how commissioners can be made more aware of these issues and the resulting need to resource providers of care at home and housing supports services to enable them to provide staff with appropriate training in palliative and end of life care and realistic timescales to carry out personal support to clients.
- The role that every organisation has in promoting more open and supportive attitudes, and some examples were given by group members of work they are involved in or are planning.
- The huge potential for Sally Paul's work to spread into other schools, and also to inform

work to help the resilience of staff.

- The group voiced support for various of the ideas outlined in the GLGDGG Discussion Paper, including developing a workplace bereavement policy (and potential links to current Hospice UK work with employees and carers) and the development of a charter for a good death.

**Action:** Bob Doris MSP will write a letter to the Scottish Government, on behalf of the group, following up on the issues raised in relation to small grants and care at home/housing support staff.

## **5 Any other competent business**

*5.1. Minutes of meeting of 14 September*

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

## **6 Date of next meeting**

Future meeting dates will be circulated as soon as possible.