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
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, APCS 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.