

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Convener
Bob Doris MSP

Vice-Conveners
Miles Briggs MSP
Mark McDonald MSP
Colin Smyth MSP

Secretary
Mark Hazelwood

Approved Minute of the Virtual meeting of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care Tuesday 22 September 2020, 10.00am

PRESENT:

Bob	Doris	MSP
Colin	Smyth	MSP
Mairi	Armstrong	Primary Care Palliative Care, GG&C HB
Alison	Blair	CHAS
Sineaid	Bradshaw	NHS Lothian
Shirley	Byron	NHSGGC
Susanne	Cameron-Nielsen	CHAS
Sandra	Campbell	NHS Forth Valley
Emma	Carduff	Marie Curie
Bruce	Cleminson	Macmillan
Lorraine	Coe	Highland Hospice
Josaleen	Connolly	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Catherine	Crosbie	Kilbryde Hospice
Pauline	Ellison	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Mark	Evans	NHS Fife
Liz	Forbat	University of Stirling
Mark	Hazelwood	SPPC
Annabel	Howell	NHS borders
Bridget	Johnston	University of Glasgow
Linda	Kelly	Ardgowan hospice
Alison	MacRobbie	NHS Highland
Helen	Malo	Hospice UK
Colette	McDiarmid	MND Scotland
Linda	McEnhill	Ardgowan Hospice
Alistair	Mckeown	PPWH / NHS GGC
Irene	McKie	Strathcarron Hospice
Kirsty	McQuarrie	Tayside NHS specialist pall care
Mary	Mooney	Ardgowan Hospice
Scott	Murray	U of Edinburgh
Juliet	O'Donnell	St Columba's Hospice & APCSW

PRESENT (continued)

Maureen	O'Neill	Faith in Older People
Rebecca	Patterson	SPPC
Jackie	Stone	St Columba's Hospice
Paul	Watson	Scottish Ambulance Service
Susan	Whyte	NHS Tayside
Margaret	Wilkie	Ayrshire Hospice
Fiona	Wylie	Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice

APOLOGIES:

Miles	Briggs	MSP
Mark	McDonald	MSP
Jacquelynne	Calder	Care Inspectorate
Rev Margery	Collins	Strathcarron Hospice
Jane	Duncan-Rogers	Before I Go Solutions
Caroline	Myles	NHS Lothian
Keith	Robson	MS Society

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Bob Doris MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Other attendees introduced themselves using the chat function of zoom. A list of apologies is noted above.

2. Presentations and Discussion:

Spiritual Care Matters – Different Perspectives

Presentations were given by Mark Evans, Head of Spiritual Care & Bereavement Lead, NHS Fife and Maureen O'Neill, Director, Faith in Older People. Copies of the presentations are available [here](#).

After the presentations, Bob Doris welcomed Colin Smyth MSP to the meeting.

Discussion followed and the following points were raised:

- The important role that care staff and other generalist staff play in providing spiritual care, and the potential need for education/training to support this.
- That specialists in spiritual care are needed to support people with more complex needs.
- In comparison to nursing and medical staff there are very few chaplains and specialists in bereavement support.
- COVID will generate more need for spiritual care and bereavement support.
- Healthcare chaplains provide vital support for staff as well as patients. Care homes don't have a designated chaplain, but still need to be able to access support.
- The need for a national approach to grief support due to the impact of COVID.
- The need to provide support/ tips/ information to members of the public who

want to provide informal support to friends/family going through difficult times but who feel out of their depth.

- Restrictions imposed because of covid-19 prevented staff from providing much of the informal spiritual care that they naturally provide as a matter of course, and this has had a negative impact on their wellbeing.
- Spiritual Care Matters (NES 2017) is a useful resource:
<https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/media/3723/spiritualcaremattersfinal.pdf>

3. Annual General Meeting 2020: (Paper 1)

3.1 Minute of AGM of 4 September 2019 (Paper 2)

The group approved as a correct record the minute of the last year's AGM held on Wednesday 4 September 2019.

(Proposed – Irene McKie; Seconded - Emma Carduff)

3.2 Annual Return & Accounts 2019-2020: (Papers 3a and 3b)

The group approved the Annual Return & Accounts 2019-2020 for submission to the Standards Committee.

(Proposed – Maureen O'Neill; Seconded - Irene McKie)

3.3 Annual Subscription 2020-2021

The group agreed to continue with an annual subscription of £0 for members.

3.4 Election of Office Bearers:

Convenor: Bob Doris was elected Convenor.

(Proposed – Colin Smyth; Seconded - Mairi Armstrong)

Vice Convenors: Mark McDonald, Colin Smythe and Miles Briggs were elected joint vice-convenors.

(Proposed – Bob Doris; Seconded – Irene McKie)

Secretary and Treasurer: Mark Hazelwood was elected Secretary and Treasurer.

(Proposed – Jackie Stone; Seconded – Mairi Armstrong)

4. Note of meeting of 26 August 2020

The minute of the most recent cross party group meeting was approved.

(Proposed – Rebecca Patterson; Seconded – Irene McKie)

5. Matters arising from 26 August 2020

5.1 Homelessness and palliative care

At the August meeting, SPPC agreed to look into the most helpful way of resuming the group's efforts to raise the profile of issues relating to homelessness and palliative care. There is nothing further to report since the August meeting, but the group may be interested in this upcoming event being organised by Marie Curie:

Marie Curie Scotland Virtual Homelessness and End Of Life Care Summit
Wed, 28 October 2020 10:30 – 13:00.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marie-curie-virtual-homelessness-and-end-of-life-care-summit-tickets-117977876003?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

6. Any other competent business:

6.1 Bereavement letter

At the previous meeting, Bridget Johnston mentioned a letter to the Scottish Government from herself, Mark Hazelwood and Donald Macaskill, making some recommendations relating to the improvement of bereavement support in Scotland. This letter has been circulated to the cross party group, and Mark Hazelwood updated the group that a meeting has since taken place with Scottish Government to discuss. Scottish Government have now invited the authors, along with Rebecca Patterson (SPPC) and Janice Turner (NES) to provide some more details around practicalities of taking forward the ideas and suggestions in the letter. They are hopeful that further discussion with government will follow about what can be taken forward.

Brief discussion followed:

- It was suggested that something national needs to happen soon to acknowledge the grief and loss that has been experienced by many over this period.
- It was also suggested that adequate resources need to be available to provide appropriate systematic support that is not always dependent on charitable organisations.
- The *To Absent Friends* festival (1-7 November) is an opportunity some are using to acknowledge losses.

ACTION: Bob Doris to write to Scottish Government on behalf of the cross party group voicing the group's support of the letter and the interest of the wider palliative care/bereavement community in engaging in future developments.

7. Date of next meeting:

The next virtual meeting of the group will take place in December 2020. Date and time to be confirmed by the Convenor, details of which will be circulated in due course.