

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 Wednesday 9 December 2020, 10.00am

PRESENT:

Bob	Doris MSP	Scottish Parliament
Mark	McDonald MSP	Scottish Parliament
Gail	Allan	NHS Western Isles
Bernadette	Boyd	CEC/ NHS Lothian
Sineaid	Bradshaw	NHS Lothian
Shirley	Byron	NHSGGC
Susanne	Cameron-Nielsen	CHAS
Sandra	Campbell	NHS Forth Valley
Emma	Carduff	Marie Curie
Graeme	Carswell	Ethypharm
Michelle	Church	Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Margery	Collin	Strathcarron Hospice
Elaine	Colville	AHSCP
Sarah	Coy	NHS Ayrshire and arran
Gill	Dickson	PSPA
Pauline	Ellison	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Joy	Farquharson	St Andrew's Hospice
Lynsey	Fielden	NHS Forth Valley
Geraldine	Finnan	NHS Borders
Anne	Finucane	Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Liz	Forbat	University of Stirling
Jennifer	Gibson	NHS Lanarkshire
Trisha	Hatt	Macmillan Cancer Support
Mark	Hazelwood	SPPC
Bridget	Johnston	University of Glasgow
Irene	Johnstone	Marie Curie
Pamela	Levack	PATCH
Michael	Loynd	NHS Highland / Highland Hospice / Macmillan
Donald	Macaskill	Scottish Care
Aisha	Macgregor	University of Stirling
Fran	Maclvor	NHS Grampian
Alison	MacRobbie	NHS Highland
Helen	Malo	Hospice UK
Thomas	McCarthy	Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Richard	Meade	Marie Curie

PRESENT:

Libby	Milton	Marie Curie
Scott	Murray	University of Edinburgh
Rebecca	Patterson	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Iona	Philp	NHS Tayside
Sheelagh	Purdie	NHS Highland
Raymond	Rose	Ambulance Service
Caroline	Sime	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Jacki	Smart	ACCORD
Kirsty	Smith	Macmillan Cancer Support
Kenny	Steele	Highland Hospice
Elaine	Stevens	International association of nurses in palliative care
Ellie	Wagstaff	Marie Curie
Jonathan	Waldheim	NES Digital Service

APOLOGIES:

Colin	Smythe MSP	Scottish Parliament
Paul	Baughan	NHS Forth Valley
Kirsty	Boyd	University of Edinburgh
Lara	Celini	Humanist Society Scotland
Bruce	Cleminson	Retired GP
Dennis	Clifford	Macmillan Cancer Support
Josaleen	Connolly	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Murdina	Macdonald	NHS Fife
Linda	McEnhill	Ardgowan Hospice
Caroline	Myles	NHS Lothian
Maureen	O'Neill	Faith in Older People
Lorna	Porteous	NHS Lothian
Katie	Rigg	Multiple System Atrophy Trust
Keith	Robson	MS Society
Jackie	Stone	St Columba's Hospice
Mona	Vaghefian	CHAS

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

2. Approval of minute of previous meeting of 22 September 2020

The minute of the 22 September 2020 was approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising from 22 September 2020

3.1 Bereavement letter

At the previous meeting of this cross-party group, there was discussion of a letter sent to Scottish Government by Bridget Johnston, Mark Hazelwood and Donald Macaskill, making some recommendations relating to the improvement of bereavement support in Scotland. It was agreed that Bob Doris would 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. Bob updated the group that he will send this letter this week.

Action: Bob Doris to send a letter to the Scottish Government

4. Presentations and Discussion: Five Years On

It is 5 years since the *Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care* (SFA) was published. Six speakers offered a series of personal reflections on achievements, lessons to learn and priorities for the future.

Mark Hazelwood, CEO, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care provided a brief overview of the commitments set out in the SFA and some of the key progress made in each area. He emphasised the importance of finding a way of evidencing outcomes.

Richard Meade, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Scotland, Marie Curie reflected on the process on the development of the SFA, and shared reflections from Marie Curie staff on progress made since 2016. He highlighted the important role of national leadership in ensuring that palliative care is seen as a priority, and the need to fully take advantage of the knowledge, experience and good will exists in the sector in the development of any future strategy.

Kenny Steel, Chief Executive, Highland Hospice reflected that a strategic approach is needed to ensure that palliative care becomes a priority, which should include asking HSCPs to report on their performance regarding palliative care. Kenny also mentioned the potential for the debate on legalisation of assisted dying to recur in the near future.

Rebecca Patterson, Director of Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief reflected on developments relating to public health palliative care since the publication of the SFA and emphasised that maintaining a strategic focus on this area is important in supporting local work ongoing in this area. She highlighted *A Road Less Lonely* as a document with grounding in broad stakeholder engagement that can be used as basis for determining future work, and the importance of improving and expanding NHS Inform information relating to death, dying and bereavement.

Donald Macaskill, CEO, Scottish Care highlighted *Palliative Care: Enriching and Improving Experience* as a helpful resource to support the learning and development needs of the health and social service workforce in Scotland, but that work is still required to equip staff with the confidence, skills and time to care. He suggested that though Scottish Government advice note on strategic commissioning is a helpful first step there is a significant way to go in convincing commissioners of the importance of palliative care.

Bridget Johnston, Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing highlighted the establishment of the Palliative Care Research Network, which ran useful events and was valued by many. Unfortunately work in this area stopped due to lack of resources, and future work in this area would require funding to sustain it. She also highlighted the need to find future funding sources or palliative care research.

There was discussion of the need for a new palliative care strategy for

Scotland, and general agreement that:

- A palliative care strategy can help facilitate improved palliative and end of life care and is important in ensuring that palliative care is seen as a priority.
- The knowledge, expertise and ideas of the wider palliative care community should be harnessed to inform the development and implementation of the next Scottish Government strategy in this area.
- There is a need to measure outcomes relating to palliative care so that we can better understand people's experiences and the impact improvement work is having.

Comments raised included:

- With the Scottish Parliament election taking place next year, the timing is right for organisations interested in improving palliative care to work together to try to influence political party manifesto commitments.
- There is a need for more national co-ordination to reduce local time spent 'reinventing the wheel'.
- Over the years, time and resources have been put into finding out what people want from palliative care, and this is unlikely change much so doesn't need to be repeated before developing a new strategy.
- The increased proportion of people dying at home during the covid-19 pandemic shouldn't be seen as an indication that these people were necessarily dying in the place they would have chosen.
- The full impact of 2020 on health and social care staff is yet to be realised.

ACTION: Bob Doris to write to the Scottish Government to feedback the key content of today's discussion

5. Next cross-party group meeting date:

The secretariat will aim to organise another meeting of the group in February 2021 and circulate meeting details when they are available.