

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament
on Palliative Care**

Convener
Michael McMahon MSP

Vice-Conveners
Aileen McLeod MSP
Jamie McGrigor MSP
Dennis Robertson MSP

Secretary
Mark Hazelwood

**Approved minute of the meeting of the Cross-Party Group
in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care incorporating
The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers**

**Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament**

Present:

Michael McMahon MSP (Chair)
Rhoda Grant MSP
Siobhan McMahon MSP
Aileen McLeod MSP
Jackie Bell, GMC in Scotland
Janice, Birrell, Scottish Government
Susan Cameron-Nielson, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Stuart Coates, Forth Valley Spiritual Care Committee
Peter Hastie, Macmillan Cancer Support
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice
Gordon McLaren, NHS Fife
Elaine MacLean, Care Inspectorate
Rosie McLoughlin, VOCAL
Tanith Muller, Parkinson's UK
Euan Paterson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Kim J Rowan
Mandy Yule, Ayrshire Hospice

Apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP
Iain Armstrong, Marie Curie Cancer Care and British Heart Foundation
Dr Deans Buchanan, NHS Tayside
Sandra Campbell, NHS Forth Valley
Maria McGill, CHAS
David Mills, PSP Association
Nicola Hackett Reed, NHS Borders
Professor Scott Murray
Sandra McConnell
Ros Scott
Susan Webster, MND Scotland

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

Michael McMahon welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that a list of apologies would be included in the minute.

2 Annual General Meeting 2014 (Separate agenda provided as Paper 1)

2.1 Minute of AGM 12 June 2013

The minute was approved as an accurate record of the meeting. (Proposed – Gordon McLaren; Seconded – Euan Paterson)

2.2 Annual Return & Accounts

The annual return was unanimously approved.

2.3 Annual Subscription

Michael McMahon noted that the cross party group currently operated without the need for a subscription and proposed that this continue for 2014-2015. Members present agreed with this proposal.

2.4 Election of Office Bearers

Michael McMahon passed the Chair to Mark Hazelwood to lead on the election of office bearers.

Election of Convenor: Mark noted that Michael McMahon had indicated a willingness to continue as Convenor. Michael McMahon was re-elected as Convenor. (Proposed – Stuart Coates; Seconded – Rhoda Grant.)

Election of Vice Convenors: Michael McMahon re-assumed the role of Chair and noted that Jamie McGrigor MSP and Dennis Robertson MSP were willing to continue as Vice Convenors of the cross party group, and that Aileen McLeod was willing to become a new Vice Convenor of the group. Members present elected all three as Vice Convenors. (Proposed – Michael McMahon; seconded – Kim Rowan.)

Election of Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Hazelwood was re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer of the Cross Party Group. (Proposed – Stuart Coates; Seconded – Irene McKie)

3 Minute of previous meeting of Wednesday 4 December 2013

The minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2013 were approved as a correct record. (Proposed – Irene McKie; seconded – Stuart Coates)

4 Matters arising from Wednesday 4 December 2013

4.1 Proposed Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

Margot MacDonald died in April, and Patrick Harvie MSP will now be taking the Bill forward. There have been two calls for written evidence relating to the Bill – one from the Health & Sport Committee which ended two days previously, and also a Finance Committee Questionnaire on the Financial Memorandum relating to the Bill which is open for a further week. The Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care has submitted written evidence to the Health and Sport Committee, and will be submitting evidence to the Finance Committee also.

Michael McMahon brought to the attention of the group that the pro-assisted suicide campaign ‘My Life, My Death, My Choice’ has a similar name to ‘Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief’, the alliance led by the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care that is working to promote more openness about death, dying and bereavement. (www.lifedeathchoice.org.uk and www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk)

The group discussed the similarities between the logos of the two different organisations and concern was expressed as to the potential confusion this could cause for the public. Mark Hazelwood updated the group that he’d previously been in touch with My Life, My Death, My Choice when he’d first seen their name and logo, and there is now a sentence on the My Life, My Death, My Choice homepage clarifying that there is no connection between the two organisations.

UPDATE: since the June meeting, the Scottish Parliament has published the following timetable for progression of the Bill:

Date of consideration by Secondary Committee:

30 September 2014

28 October 2014 (evidence)

Dates of consideration by other committees:

2 April 2014 (Finance)

More information is available here:

www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx#sthash.WkqNZXkT.dpuf

The Scottish Parliament has also published a [summary](#) of the key themes and discussion points raised from an analysis of submissions to the call for evidence, which can be viewed here:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/HS_Assisted_Suicide_Report.pdf

4.2 Liverpool care pathway: update

At the December meeting of the cross party group there was some discussion of the Liverpool Care Pathway, its phasing out, and the need for the public engagement to inform work in this area was highlighted, both by group members and members of the public in attendance at the meeting. It was also pointed out that the short life working group report to the NAG relating to *More Care Less Pathway* had highlighted the importance of future opportunities for public engagement. Michael McMahon had undertaken to write a letter to Alex Neill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, to find out what opportunities there would be for public engagement on this issue.

Michael updated the group that he had written a letter to the Cabinet Secretary, but so far had received no response.

A letter was sent to NHS Boards on 17 April 2014 from Craig White, Divisional Clinical Lead in the Quality Unit, which amongst other things voiced the Scottish Government's commitment to a Strategic Framework for Action relating to Palliative and End of Life Care. The letter can be accessed here:

<http://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/publications/Letter-to-Boards---17-April-2014.pdf>

Members of the group expressed the view that there is still a fair amount of confusion in the public arena relating to the status of the LCP, and amongst clinicians about what will follow on from the LCP.

5 Film Premieres, Presentation and Discussion

At home with illness

Mark Hazelwood, Chief Executive of the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care introduced three new short films entitled *At home with illness* being launched to mark Carers Week 2014. The films were made by Chris Rawlence of Rosetta Life for the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care and Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief. The group viewed one of these films – *Jack & Dorothy*. All of the films can be viewed online here:

<http://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/at-home/>

Changes to NHS Continuing Healthcare: What is changing and how will it affect carers?

Tanith Muller, Parliamentary and Campaigns Manager at Parkinson's UK explored changes to NHS Continuing Healthcare and how they may affect carers. (Slides attached) Group discussion of this issue followed and focused on whether or not people with certain conditions (eg Parkinson's, Motor Neurone Disease, Supranuclear Palsy) will be disadvantaged because their long term care traditionally takes place in Care Homes (paid for by themselves where possible) rather than in hospitals (paid for by the state). There was discussion of definition 'primary healthcare needs' vs 'primary need for healthcare' and whether in fact the care provided to people with the needs defined by SG guidance is only provided in hospitals.

6 Any other competent business

If anyone has a topic that they would like raised at a future cross party group meeting, please contact Mark Hazelwood: mark@palliativecarescotland.org.uk

7 Dates of future meetings;

The September meeting was cancelled due to the pre-referendum recess.
Wednesday 10 December 2014 – Committee Room 3