

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

Convener
Michael McMahon MSP

Vice-Conveners
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**

**Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament**

Present:

Michael McMahon MSP (Chair)
Fiona McLeod MSP
Siobhan McMahon, MSP
Jane Andrew, NHS Tayside
Phil Atkinson
Patricia Brooks Young, NHS Lothian
Anna Buchanan, Life Changes Trust
Tracy Burton, NHS Lothian
Pat Carragher, CHAS
David Clark, University of Glasgow
Amy Dalrymple, Alzheimer Scotland
Helen Dryden, NHS Tayside
Belinda Hacking, NHS Lothian
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Susan Lowes, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Steinunn Boyce, NHS Fife
Gordon McLaren, NHS Fife
Richard Meade, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Tanith Muller, Parkinson's UK
Clare Murphy, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Euan Paterson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Balraj Pawar, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Juliet Spiller, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Craig White, Scottish Government

Apologies:

Dennis Robertson MSP
Dr Richard Simpson MSP
Dave Thompson MSP

Jeff Ace, NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Joanne Adamson, Macmillan Cancer Support
Alison Blezard, SESKPA
Anna Buchanan, Life Changes Trust
Deans Buchanan, NHS Tayside
Sandra Campbell, NHS Forth Valley
Victoria Cason, GMC Scotland
Bruce Cleminson

Gillian Clifford, MS Society
Stuart Coates, Forth Valley Spiritual Care Committee
Margaret Colquhoun, St Columba's Hospice
Dr Derek Doyle, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Janis Dougan, NHS Lanarkshire
Jo Dunlop, NHS Lanarkshire
Joy Elliott, ACCORD Hospice
Shirley Fife, NHS Lothian
Libby Ferguson, Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow
Jackie Husband, St Columba's Hospice
Elizabeth Ireland, NHS National Services Scotland
Jackie Lindsay, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Sally Lawton, NHS Grampian
Sandra McConnell, Ardgowan Hospice
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice
Anne Mills, Ardgowan Hospice
David Mills, PSP Association
Susan Milne, NHS Forth Valley
Murdina MacDonald, NHS Fife
Scott Murray, University of Edinburgh
Dot Partington, St Columba's Hospice
Caroline Paterson, Marie Curie Nursing Service
Elaine Peace, NHS Orkney
Kim Jennifer Rowan
Geoff Sage, St Andrew's Hospice
Ros Scott
Helen R Simpson, ACCORD Hospice
Fran Stretton, NHS Fife
Nichola Summers, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Julie Watson, University of Edinburgh
Susan Webster, MND Scotland
Mandy Yule, Ayrshire Hospice

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

Michael McMahon welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that a list of apologies would be included in the minute. He thanked Aileen McLeod MSP for her brief service as Vice-Convenor of the group, and noted that she won't be able to continue in this role as she recently became Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

2. Minute of previous meeting of Wednesday 11 June 2014

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

3. Matters arising from Wednesday 11 June

3.1 Proposed Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

Michael McMahon updated the group that the Health & Sport Committee has invited specific individuals and organisations to give oral evidence on the Bill, and this will take place between 13th January and 17th February 2015.

3.2 Public Engagement in future work relating to end of life care

At the December 2013 meeting of the cross party group, Michael McMahon undertook to write a letter to Alex Neill MSP, then Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, to find out what

opportunities there would be for public engagement to inform future work on end of life care following the phasing out of the Liverpool Care Pathway. Michael updated the group that he has received no response to this letter, and that Alex Neill is no longer Cabinet Secretary. Michael updated the group that the following parliamentary question was recently asked by Nanette Milne MSP, and answered on 3rd December:

Nanette Milne (Conservative Health Spokesperson): “To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to consult stakeholders and the public regarding the content of its proposed strategic framework for action on palliative and end-of-life care.”

Shona Robison (Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport): “The Scottish Government has asked the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care to develop plans to engage with stakeholders about the framework. The recently established person-centred stakeholder group, whose membership is drawn from service users, carers, the voluntary sector and staff across health and social care, will provide input in 2015. We are also engaging widely including with the newly established palliative and end of life care national advisory group and its wider health and care networks, NHS board executive leads for palliative and end of life care, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, universities, NHS Education Scotland, independent adult hospices and the Children’s Hospice Association Scotland.”

Mark Hazelwood commented that the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care is currently working with Scottish Government colleagues to establish a stakeholder group that will be complementary to the NAG, with membership drawn from a range of interests, including service users and carers. However, the SPPC is of the view that there needs to be additional engagement with the public specifically about end of life policy. The SPPC has advised the Scottish Government that the current work to establish a stakeholder group is not sufficient to address the need for wide public engagement on end of life care policy that was raised at the December 2013 meeting of the Cross Party Group.

4 Presentation and Discussion: Working towards a national strategy for palliative and end of life care in Scotland – considerations, evidence and actions.

David Clark, Professor at the University of Glasgow, gave a presentation (slides attached) exploring considerations, evidence and actions required to develop a national strategy for palliative and end of life care in Scotland. This was followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. Issues raised included:

- The absence of an explicit mention of the need to support people to die well, both within the Health and Social Care Integration Outcomes, and within the Scottish Government’s 2020 vision, and the importance of recognition of palliative and end of life care in key policy documents such as these if improvements are to be achieved.
- Sensitivities relating to terminology and the difficulties caused by varying definitions relating to palliative and end of life care.
- Scottish Government plans to refresh the 2020 vision in 2015.
- The need for a future Strategic Framework for Action to address the needs of people with non-malignant illnesses who receive palliative care in the community from social care providers.

- The existence of a culture where it is perceived that medical science can ‘fix everything’, and the problems this can cause.
- The need for a ‘national strategy for palliative and end of life care’ which goes beyond what can be achieved in the few months before scheduled publication of the strategic framework for action – and for it to be developed with involvement from all sectors of society, not just health and social care.
- The importance of publicising the good achievements taking place in Scotland, for example the DNACPR policy and the electronic Palliative Care Summary, and of proactively developing good relationships with the press.
- The good public engagement work already underway in hospices.
- The need for more academic studies and publications relating to this area, and the kind of infrastructure that might be introduced to support this.
- Primary legislation is one way of making improvements, and much can also be done with a shared purpose, political will and the will of officials.
- The importance of leadership, co-production and clear information about how stakeholders can input and influence future developments.

5 Any other business

No further business was discussed.

6 Future Meetings

Wednesday 11th March 2015 Committee Room 3 (Sir Alexander Fleming Room)

Wednesday 24th June 2015 Committee Room 5 (Adam Smith Room)

Wednesday 9th September 2015 Committee Room 4 (James Clerk Maxwell Room)

Wednesday 2nd December 2015 Committee Room 4 (James Clerk Maxwell Room)