

**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 incorporating
The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers**

**Wednesday 9 September 2015 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament**

Present:

Michael McMahon MSP (Chair)
Siobhan McMahon MSP
Dennis Agnew, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Pauline Britton, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Patricia Brooks Young, NHS Lothian
Aileen Bryson, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Susanne Cameron-Nielsen, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Sandra Campbell, NHS Forth Valley
Pat Carragher, CHAS
Shirley Fife, NHS Lothian
Anne Finucane, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Sue Gray, Macmillan Cancer Support
Belinda Hacking, NHS Lothian
Tricia Hatt, Macmillan Cancer Support
Guy Haworth, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Annabel Howell, NHS Borders
Jackie Husband, St Columba's Hospice
Susan Jackson, St Andrew's Hospice
Elinor Jayne, Sue Ryder
Susan Lowes, Marie Curie
Marjory Mackay, Strathcarron Hospice
Maria McGill, CHAS
Gordon McLaren, NHS Fife
Elaine MacLean, Care Inspectorate
Richard Meade, Marie Curie
Rob Murray, Changing Faces
Scott Murray, University of Edinburgh
Euan Paterson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Jacquie Smith, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Ian Somerville, GMC Scotland
Juliet Spiller, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Elaine Stevens, International Association of Nurses in Palliative Care
Lorna Stewart, Scottish Non-Malignant Palliative Care Forum
Amanda Ward, Researcher Scottish Parliament
Miriam Watts, St Andrew's Hospice
Susan Webster, MND Scotland

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Secretariat: Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

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Craig White, Scottish Government
Mandy Yule, Ayrshire Hospice

Apologies:

Iain Armstrong, British Heart Foundation Scotland
Josaleen Connolly, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Joy Elliott, ABSCo
Sally Lawton, NHS Grampian
Sarah Miller, NHS Forth Valley
Anne Mills, Ardgowan Hospice
Anne Robb, NHS Tayside
Ros Scott, University of Dundee
Karen Stewart, NHS Fife

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 2015 (Separate agenda provided as Paper 1)

2.1 Minute of AGM 11 June 2014 (Paper 2)

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

2.2 Annual Return & Accounts (Papers 3a and 3b)

The annual return was approved. (Proposed – Maria McGill, Seconded – Gordon McLaren)

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 2015-2016. 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 – Pat Carragher; Seconded – Scott Murray.)

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. Members present elected both as Vice Convenors. (Proposed – Michael McMahon; seconded – Belinda Hacking.)

Election of Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Hazelwood was re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer of the Cross Party Group. (Proposed – Juliet Spiller; Seconded – Maria McGill)

3 Minute of previous meeting of Wednesday 11 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2013 were approved as a correct record. (Proposed – Trisha Hatt; seconded – Gordon McLaren)

4 Matters arising from Wednesday 11 March 2015

4.1 Proposed Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

Michael McMahon updated the group that the Scottish Parliament debated the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill on Wednesday 27 May 2015. After a respectful debate, MSPs voted to reject the Bill by 82 votes to 36.

5 Presentation and Discussion:
Emergent thinking and the new Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care
Professor Craig White, Divisional Clinical Lead Planning and Quality Division, Scottish Government

Craig White gave a presentation, raising the following points:

- Scotland is a world leader in many areas but there is a need to address variations in quality and access to palliative and end of life care.
- It takes an average of 17 years to get 14% of evidence into practice, so we need to find alternative ways of delivering change across the country.
- Lack of a nationally agreed quality measurement system is a threat to improvement.
- Are health and social care outcomes sufficient to measure palliative care?
- There is a need for more opportunities to discuss relevant issues, and the current 'Healthier Scotland' conversation is one such opportunity.
- Money and resources are essential, and there has been a recent commitment by the Scottish Government to spend £3.5 million on palliative and end of life care over the next 3.5 years.
- The interest of MSPs through the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee Inquiry into palliative care is welcome.
- The main issues that have emerged so far in development of the strategic framework for action are communication, improvement, co-ordination, training, and leadership.
- Other work underway, such as the Out of Hours Review, SPPC work, and RCN work has been helpful for the development of the strategic framework for action.
- England published its 'national framework for local action' this week.
- Professor David Clarke is consultant editor for the Strategic Framework for Action, and also is an expert advisor to the Health and Sport Committee for their inquiry on palliative care.

The presentation was followed by questions and discussion which raised the following issues:

- The need for plans for delivery once the framework has been published.
- The need to engage social carers as they provide much palliative care.
- That health and social care indicators are relevant to palliative and end of life care but very high level - there is a need to have more detail about palliative and end of life care to underpin these.
- There is a crisis in the GP workforce which has implications for support of people at home and in the community.
- The need to ensure that the development of new National Care Standards are appropriately linked in to developments in palliative and end of life care.
- As a result of resolutions adopted recently SG will be expected to report to the World Health Organisation during 2016 on progress towards integrating palliative care.
- An increasing number of people with a cancer diagnosis are living longer with palliative care needs.
- The role played by carers should be recognised in the Strategic Framework for Action.
- The importance of linkages with bereavement care.
- The importance of finding relevant ways of measuring and monitoring improvement.
- A huge amount of palliative care happens that isn't labelled as such, and this needs to be recognised and resourced.
- The potential for input from health economists in the future.

6 Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee: Inquiry into palliative care

Three oral evidence sessions have been scheduled, and written submissions received have been published on the website. The current expectation is that the committee will publish a report in late October/ early November.

7 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

8 Dates of future meetings;

Meetings for 2016 will be scheduled towards the end of 2015.