

**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 2 December 2015 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament**

Present:

Michael McMahon MSP (Convener)
Siobhan McMahon MSP

Pauline Britton, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Emma Carduff, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Pat Carragher, CHAS
Stuart Coates, Forth Valley Spiritual Care Committee
Shirley Fife, NHS Lothian
Anne Finucane, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Emma Fletcher, NHS Fife
Caitrian Guthrie, CHSS
Carol Graham, Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice
Sue Gray, Macmillan Cancer Support
Trisha Hatt, Macmillan Cancer Support
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Jackie Husband, St Columba's Hospice
Susan Lowes, Marie Curie
Maria McGill, CHAS
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice
Gordon McLaren, NHS Fife
Richard Meade, Marie Curie
Euan Paterson, RCGP Scotland
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Sally Paul, University of Strathclyde
Kim Rowan, PCUK
Ian Somerville, GMC Scotland
Clare Tucker, NHS Education for Scotland
Stewart Wilson, Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland
Mandy Yule, Ayrshire Hospice

Funerals and Bereavement Cross Party Group:

Stuart McMillan MSP
Nanette Milne MSP
John Birrell, John Birrell Consultancy
Andrew Brown, National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD)
M. P. Owen, NAFD
Paul Cuthell, NAFD
James Blackburn, NAFD

Apologies:

Ken Macintosh MSP

Jane Andrew, NHS Tayside

Janice Birrell, Scottish Government

Susanne Cameron-Nielsen, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Annabel Howell, NHS Borders and The Margaret Kerr Unit

Sarah Miller, NHS Forth Valley

Lorna Stewart, NHS Fife

Anne Robb, NHS Tayside

Ros Scott, University of Dundee

Geoff Sage, Diocesan network of the Scottish Episcopal Church

Kenny Steele, Highland Hospice

Elaine Stevens, International Association of Nurses in Palliative Care

Craig White, Scottish Government

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. He also noted that the cross party group on Funerals and Bereavement would be joining the group for agenda item 5 onwards.

2 Minute of previous meeting of Wednesday 9 September 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 9 September were approved as a correct record. (Proposed – Susan Lowes; seconded – Maria McGill.)

3 Matters arising from Wednesday 9 September 2015

3.1 Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care

The Scottish Government's new Strategic Framework for Action is expected to be published in December.

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

The Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee has published *We need to talk about Palliative Care*, the report of its inquiry into palliative care.

4 Children in Scotland requiring Palliative Care: identifying numbers and needs (ChiSP Study)

Pat Carragher, Medical Director at CHAS, spoke to the group about the ChiSP study, which was published on the 4th November. The study investigated the numbers of babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions in Scotland, and what current evidence tells us about their, and their families', palliative and psychosocial support needs.

5 Presentations and Discussion:

The group heard two presentations (PowerPoint slides attached):

- *The work of Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland including the recent PhD study of CBCS's evidence based model of support*
Stewart Wilson, Chief Executive, Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland (CBCS)
- *The NHS Education for Scotland - Supporting Scottish Grief and Bereavement Care Project*
Clare Tucker, Project Lead for Grief & Bereavement, NHS Education for Scotland

Group discussion followed and included the following issues:

- Excellent work undertaken in partnership between Macmillan and Cruse.
- Capacity issues – this year Cruse have managed to reduce the amount of time people spend on their waiting list.

- Cruse's social support services have a huge take up, with a much smaller proportion going on to access one-to-one support.
- The aim is for the NES training framework being developed to be of relevance to all doctors. Plans for implementation will follow in due course.
- The over-medicalisation of death and the importance of bringing a social model, as exemplified by the work of Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief.
- Most people who've recently been bereaved find hard to make sense of a random review as part of the death certification process. In addition, the new death certification system has removed the ritual of personal handing over a death certificate, which was in some ways a rite of passage.
- The difficulties previously faced in trying to make changes to the undergraduate curriculum to increase the emphasis on palliative care.
- Schools are an important place for work to take place to normalise discussions of death, dying and bereavement.
- The importance of challenging negative media reactions to these issues.
- The possibility of establishing a child bereavement network in Scotland.

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

Meeting dates for the first half of 2016 will be circulated shortly.

(Update: The next meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday 10 February 2016 in Committee Room 5, at 5.45pm.)