

Cross-Party Group on Palliative Care

Thursday 1 June 2023, 1.00-2.30pm on ZOOM

Meeting note

Remote Attendees:

Kenny Steele	Highland Hospice
Margaret Mary Cowan	Kilbryde Hospice
Tracy Flynn	The Ayrshire Hospice
Annabel Howell	CHAS
Pauline Ellison	SPPC
George Lewes	Office of Liam McArthur MSP
Sandra Campbell	Scottish Ambulance Service
Lorna Porteous	NHS Lothian
Gillian Sherwood	Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice
Emma McMullan	Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice
Sineaid Bradshaw	NHS Lothian
Elaine Stevens	International Association of Nurses in Palliative Care
Morven Kellett	NHS Forth Valley
Aileen Morton	HUK
Kerry McWilliams	NHS Lanarkshire
Ellie Wagstaff	Marie Curie
Thomas Mulvey	Marie Curie
Amy Dalrymple	Marie Curie
Ann Silver	NHSGGC
Lynsay Bradley	NHSGGC
Kirsty Smith	Macmillan
Anna Sutherland	Strathcarron Hospice
Kerry Patterson	Scottish Government
Louise Scott	Scottish Government
Gillian Foster	Strathcarron Hospice
Mona Vaghefian	CHAS

In-person attendees

Bob Doris MSP (Convenor)	
Marie McNair MSP	
Miles Briggs MSP	
Denis Agnew	St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
David Cameron	Office of Bob Doris MSP
Joy Farquharson	St Andrew's Hospice
Graham Gardiner	Ardgowan Hospice
Jacki Smart	Accord Hospice
Mark Hazelwood	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Helen Malo	Hospice UK
Irene McKie	Strathcarron Hospice
Clare Murphy	St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Rami Okasha	CHAS
Rebecca Patterson	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

Jackie Stone St Columba's Hospice

Apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP
Daniel Johnson MSP
Paul O'Kane MSP
Kirsty Boyd, SG
Jacqueline Calder, Care Inspectorate
Bruce Cleminson
Rob Gowans, the ALLIANCE
Richard Hull, RCPSG
Bridget Johnston, NHSGGC
Marie Manzi, Macmillan
Jude Merryll, Soul Midwives Scotland
Michael Veitch, CARE for Scotland
Alice Wells, NHS Fife

Agenda item 1

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Bob Doris MSP welcomed attendees to this hybrid meeting. There were three MSPs present – Bob Doris (convenor) Miles Briggs MSP and Marie McNair MSP. A list of attendees and apologies will be included in the minute.

Agenda item 2

Annual General Meeting

2.1 Annual Return (Paper 1) & Accounts (Paper 2)

The minute of the last AGM (June 2022) was approved. The group also approved the Annual Return & Accounts 2022-2023 for submission to the Standards Committee.

2.2 Annual Subscription

The group agreed it is happy to continue an annual subscription of £0 for members.

2.3 Election of Office Bearers

Bob Doris was re-elected Convenor of the group.

Miles Briggs and Marie McNair were elected Deputy Convenors of the group.

Mark Hazelwood was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer of the group.

Agenda item 3

Approval of the minute of the previous meeting of 23 March 2023.

The minute of the previous meeting of the group was approved. (Proposed - Denis Agnew;
Seconded - Irene McKie.)

Agenda item 4

Presentations and Discussion

In Search of “Scottish Palliative Care Funding” – what does it mean and what do we know?

Mark Hazelwood, Chief Executive of the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care gave a presentation exploring what is known about how palliative care is funded, including specialist and generalist palliative care in all settings including hospitals, specialist units, care homes and communities.

Hospice funding – current challenges

Jacki Smart, Chair of the Scottish Hospice Leadership Group gave a presentation explaining the key funding challenges currently being experienced by Scottish Independent Voluntary Hospices, including the expectation of matching NHS salaries, rising costs/inflation, and increase in energy costs. The urgent need to address funding shortfalls is a distraction from providing/innovating services in an environment of increasing need, and hospices are looking for help from SG and NHS to resolve these issues. Kenny Steele explained the situation in Highland, where they have a Lead Agency Model, and CEL12 is still providing a somewhat useful framework for agreeing funding. Irene McKie outlined some of the issues faced by Strathcarron Hospice, primarily the difficulty in getting a mutually acceptable definition of the ‘agreed costs’ that NHS will contribute towards.

Hospice funding – meeting future need

Helen Malo, Policy and Advocacy Manager Scotland, Hospice UK gave a presentation looking to the future and exploring a potential long term solution to allow hospices to plan for future need. It was suggested that a new Funding Framework would be of practical help.

Slides from these presentations are available on the SPPC website:

<https://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/cross-party-group-1-june-23/>

Discussion

MSPs present made it clear that they understood the importance and urgency of the issues facing hospices and that they were keen to work with hospices to help them move towards a practical solution, though it wasn't yet clear how this would be achieved.

Hospice representatives present reiterated that the issues raised by Jacki and Helen are facing all Scottish Independent Hospices at present, and are likely to get increasingly harder to deal with, for example with future pay rises for doctors expected. The amount that can be raised through public fundraising has reached its limits, and grant funding is hard to come by. Several hospices are being forced to budget significant deficits this year, which may be manageable for one year, but is not sustainable and there is a very real risk of hospices having to close.

Action

Bob Doris and the other MSPs present at the meeting will work with the speakers to draft a letter to the Cabinet Secretary which presents the key issues and the urgency of the situation, and requests a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary to discuss this. It may also be appropriate to invite the Cabinet Secretary to a future meeting of the cross party group.

Agenda item 5

Any other business

Assisted Suicide

Bob Doris updated the group that he's exploring how to provide an opportunity to take discussion of Assisted Dying forward in a meaningful and respectful fashion.

Agenda item 6

Date of the next Cross Party Group meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 June 2023. It will focus on the soon to be launched report of the Scottish Bereavement Summit – a first chance to hear and discuss the Summit's recommendations on improving experiences of bereavement in Scotland.