

Cross-Party Group on Palliative Care

Wednesday 28 June, 1.00-2.00pm in Q1.03 and on
TEAMS

Meeting note

In-person attendees

Bob Doris MSP (Convenor)
David Cameron, Office of Bob Doris
Amy Dalrymple, Marie Curie
Donna Hastings, St Columba's Hospice Care
Ian Pirrie, Cancer Card
Jacqui Marwick, Cruse Scotland
Jen Hardy, Cancer Card
Jen Somerville, CHAS
Mark Hazelwood, SPPC
Megan MacDonald, Pancreatic Cancer Action
Rebecca Patterson, SPPC
Richard Stafford, Child Bereavement UK
Sue Hogg, CHAS

Remote Attendees:

Marie McNair MSP (Deputy Convenor)
Anne Finucane, Marie Curie
Bridget Johnston, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Clare Carolan, U of H&I
Colette McDiarmid, MND Scotland
Dawn Allan (Speaker)
Elaine Stevens, IANPC
Fiona Arnott-Barron, Cruse Scotland
Gail Precious, Childhood Bereavement Network & National Bereavement Alliance
George Lewes, Office of Liam McArthur MSP
Helen Malo, HUK
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice
Jo Bowden, NHS Fife
Julie Morrison, Baby Loss Retreat
Kenny Steel, Highland Hospice
Kirsty Boyd, SG
Lesley Howells, Maggie's Centre
Louise Mainland, Highland Hospice
Louise Scott, SG
Margaret Wilkie, St Andrew's Hospice
Mark Evans, SG
Mona Vaghefian, CHAS
Nicola Reed, Cruse Scotland

APPROVED MINUTE

Nicola Russell, DWP
Pauline Ellison, SPPC
Ruth Bickerton, U of Dundee
Sandra Campbell, SAS
Sarah McFadzean, DWP
Sharon Dick, NHS Fife
Susan Bolt, SG
Thomas Mulvey, Marie Curie
Tracy Flynn, Ayrshire Hospice

Apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP
Miles Briggs MSP
Stephen Kerr MSP
Paul O'Kane MSP
Jacquelyne Calder, CI
Claire Clark, NHS Fife
Kendall Davidson, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Francis Edwards
Graham Gardiner, Ardgowan Hospice
Ewan Gurr, Funeral Link
David Henderson, Strathcarron Hospice
Linda McCurrach, No-one Dies Alone Ayrshire
Jude Merryl, Soul Midwife
Helen Moffat, NHS Grampian
Maureen O'Neill, FiOP
Jackie Stone, St Columba's Hospice Care
Maryan Whyte, Whyte Family Trust

Agenda item 1

Welcome, introduction and apologies

It was noted that the TEAMS remote links were problematic on the day resulting in the start of the meeting being delayed.

Bob Doris MSP welcomed attendees to this hybrid meeting. There were two MSPs present – Bob Doris (convenor) and Marie McNair (Deputy Convenor). A list of attendees and apologies are noted above.

Agenda item 2

Approval of the minute of the previous meeting of 01 June 2023

The minute of the previous meeting of the group was approved and adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Agenda item 3

Presentations and Discussion:

Exploring the impact of bereavement on people's lives

Dawn Allan, Spiritual Care Service Manager and Bereavement Co-ordinator, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde delivered this presentation exploring the impact of bereavement on society; how NHSGGC and Third-Party organisational partnerships support bereaved people and the importance and impact of cultural and religious needs.

How can we improve experiences of bereavement in Scotland? Recommendations from the Scottish Bereavement Summit

Jen Somerville, Bereavement Co-ordinator, CHAS and Rebecca Patterson, Director of Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief gave a joint presentation looking at the reasons for organising the online Summit and sharing the 10 recommendations from the Summit in a newly published report, along with a summary report, which are now available online:

[Scottish Bereavement Summit Final Report](#)

[Scottish Bereavement Summit Summary Report](#)

Slides from these presentations are available on the SPPC website:

[Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care | Cross Party Group Meeting - 28 June](#)

[\(palliativecarescotland.org.uk\)](http://palliativecarescotland.org.uk)

Discussion

The recommendations suggest what could further be done but consideration should be given as to who could willingly do this – perhaps an opportunity for a collaborative approach to explore the depth of this further to make this happen. It is striking how a huge range of organisations and individuals are 'on the same page' around this issue.

The new framework on spiritual care *Discovering meaning, purpose and hope through person centred wellbeing and spiritual care: framework* was signed off the previous week by Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (who has Palliative Care as part of her portfolio). This is the first statement from SG about spiritual care since 2008. Recommendation 6 of that framework states that health and social care providers should promote bereavement support for staff, particularly those providing palliative and end of life care across all settings. This supports the fact that the financial, mental health and societal impact of complex bereavement should be a public health matter.

The Bereavement Summit Report recommends a central hub for support that can provide clear, accurate, real-time signposting information to those looking for support (this has already been investigated by Child Bereavement UK as a solution to signposting). Cancer Card is a new charity that helps people affected by cancer to find the support they need through its online support hub – it offered to help, support and collaborate with any next steps. Maggie's offered its support too and highlighted the importance of a central hub. Collaboration is needed to make signposting effective but there also needs to be agreement on where that is held. Useful to involve existing networks to help progress this.

Recommendation 3: Members agreed that strategic support, direction and accountability around bereavement support from the top-level down are crucial, else it just won't work.

Where bereavement sits within SG is currently a bit unclear. It is important to identify who the SG lead for bereavement is at a civil service level and also at a ministerial level. Education plays an important part in taking bereavement forward and a more co-ordinated approach is required – useful to find out if SG has any plans to join up existing educational/enhanced bereavement services.

Action:

Bob Doris agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the CPG to the relevant Minister(s), drawing attention to the summit recommendations and inviting the Minister to a future meeting to discuss further.

It was noted that to date there was no comment/ response from SG to the UK Commission on Bereavement's Report published October 2022.

Agenda item 4

Hospice funding:

Bob Doris updated the group that, drawing on the work of Hospice UK, he has drafted a letter to the Minister highlighting hospice funding issues raised at the previous meeting, which he will circulate to MSP colleagues for comment. He aims to send this letter to the Minister before the Summer recess. Bob personally thanked Helen Malo, Hospice UK for all her work in helping to take this forward.

Agenda item 5

Any other business

On this occasion no further business was raised.

Agenda item 6

Date of the next Cross Party Group meeting

The next meeting will take place sometime in September 2023. Details to follow.