

Approved Meeting note

Cross-Party Group on Palliative Care

Thursday 23rd March, 1.30-3pm on ZOOM

Present

Jackie Baillie MSP	Gordon MacDonald	Michael Veitch
Miles Briggs MSP	Hannah Easdown	Mona Vaghefian
Siobhian Brown MSP	Heather Tonner	Naomi Richards
Bob Doris MSP (Convenor)	Helen Malo	Narmadha Kali Vanan
Aileen Morton	Irene McKie	Pauline Ellison
Alistair Mckeown	Jackie Stone	Peter Kiehlmann
Amanda Ward	Jacqueline Gray	Peter Pype
Amy Dalrymple	Jacquelyne Calder	Rachel Kemp
Anna Sutherland	Jacqui Marwick	Rebecca Patterson
Annabel Howell	Joanna Prentice	Ross Barrow
Anne Finucane	Jude Meryl	Shona Haslam
Becca Young	Julie Watson	Sineaid Bradshaw
Bruce Cleminson	Juliet O'Donnell	Steinunn Boyce
Catherine Hodge	Katie Rigg	Stuart Murdoch
Clare Murphy	Kendall Davidson	Till Kroeber
David Clark	Kenny Steele	Tracy Flynn
Deans Buchanan	Kirsty Smith	Apologies:
Duncan Brown	Kirsty Sturrock	Alice Wells
Susan Bolt	Laura Wilson	Bridget Johnston
Erwan Elias	Leonie Herx	Claire McGowan
Evonne Gourlay	Libby Ferguson	Elaine Stevens
Fiona Finlay	Linda McCurrach	Ellie Wagstaff
Fiona MacCormick	Liz Forbat	Kirsty Boyd
Francis Edwards	Mairi-Clare McGowan	Morna Simpkins
Gillian Wright	Margaret Wilkie	Paul Baughan
	Marie Manzi	Sandra Campbell
	Marjory Mackay	Sandra McConnell
	Mark Hazelwood	

Agenda:

Agenda item 1

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Bob Doris welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting was being recorded. MSPs present (Jackie Baillie, Miles Briggs, Siobhian Brown and Bob Doris) introduced themselves. Attendees introduced themselves in the chat. It was noted that apologies would be recorded in the minute.

It was noted that today was the Marie Curie National Day of Reflection, designed to be an opportunity to remember our loved ones who've died, support people who are grieving, and connect with each other.

Agenda item 2

Approval of the minute of the meeting of June 2022

Approval of the June 2022 minute had been delayed, as the December meeting wasn't quorate. The group now approved the June minute as a correct record.

Agenda item 3

Three Presentations and Discussion: *Exploring the Practice and Provision of Palliative Care in Jurisdictions where Assisted Dying (euthanasia and/or enabling the self-administration of lethal medication) is Legal*

The group heard three presentations:

The relationship between palliative care and assisted dying in three jurisdictions – a systematic scoping review

*Dr Naomi Richards, Director of the Glasgow End of Life Studies Group, Glasgow University
Palliative care and assisted dying in Belgium – a practitioner perspective*

Palliative care and assisted dying in Belgium – a practitioner perspective

Dr Peter Pype, GP, Professor in Primary Care and Interprofessional Education and Collaboration, Member of the End of Life Care Research Group, Ghent University. EAPC Taskforce Chair.

Impact of assisted dying on the practice and provision of palliative care in Canada

Dr Leonie Herx, Palliative care physician, Associate Professor and Division Head of Palliative Medicine at Queen's University, and Medical Director for Palliative Care at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and Providence Care Hospital.

Discussion

Discussion followed which included the following issues:

- The need to consider the evidence base in terms of the reflexivity of researchers and potential biases and limitations in what is published.
- Whether there are indications that factors such as financial issues or lack of social care support influence individual's wishes relating to assisted dying.
- The details and differences between systems/countries in practicalities, safeguards and how medication is accessed and administered.
- Whether making assisted dying lawful would bring a duty of care to inform people of this as an option alongside treatment options. In Victoria it has been prohibited for medical professionals to bring up assisted dying as an option, though this may change in the future.

- How palliative care services and practitioners and cultures have been affected where assisted dying has been legalised, the difficulties evaluating this without having baseline data, and the opportunities for evaluation of this in a Scottish context should assisted dying become legal here.
- If adverse effects of interventions/absence of interventions are to be described as part of informed consent - is there enough evidence available to describe any benefits/risks/adverse effects associated with MAID/AD/Euthanasia to speak to that requirement?
- The importance of continuing to talk respectfully despite disagreements on this subject and to keep looking at the evidence.

The following links to papers and article on this subject were shared by speakers and attendees in the zoom chat box:

- <https://apm.amegroups.com/article/view/57549/html>
- <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/jpm.2022.0484>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114366>
- <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/jpm.2022.0484>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00302228221149453?journalCode=omea>
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00302228221138997?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%20pubmed
- <https://jme.bmj.com/content/41/8/625>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0269216320968517>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33491735/>
- <https://apmonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/APM-Survey-of-AD-Impact-on-PC-FINAL.pdf>
- <https://apm.amegroups.com/article/view/50986/html>

Agenda item 5

Any other business

No further business was discussed.

Agenda Item 6

Date of the next Cross Party Group meeting

Future meeting dates will be circulated by email.