

Cross-Party Group on Palliative Care

Wednesday 23 February 2022, 1.00pm – 2.30pm
on ZOOM

Present:

Alex Close	Frances MacIvor	Lynsey Kemlo	Sally Paul
Alison MacRobbie	Francis Edwards	Maire O'Riordan	Sandra McConnell
Alison Mitchell	Gillian Sherwood	Margaret Mary Cowan	Scott Murray
Alison Seren	Graham Gardiner	Marion Lang	Shona Dickson
Anne Finucane	Graham Whyte	Marjory Mackay	Sophie Pask
Bob Doris MSP	Holly Aindow	Mark Hazelwood	Trisha Hatt
Bridget Johnston	Holly McGuigan	Maureen O'Neill	
Catriona Ross	Jacqueline smart	Michael Cholbi	Apologies:
Chris Kidson	Jacqui Fernie	Michelle Scott	Jackie Baillie MSP
Claire Walmsley	Juliet O'Donnell	Morven Kellett	Miles Briggs MSP
Colette Reid	Karen Harvie	Murdo MacDonald	Siobhian Brown MSP
Deans Buchanan	Karen Harvie	Neil Macdonald	Stephen Kerr MSP
Deborah Ritchie	Kirsteen Murray	Nicky Bridges	Elizabeth Anderson
Dennis Clifford	Kirsty Boyd	Nicky McManus	Fiona Arnott-Barron
Elaine Colville	Kirsty Smith	Paul O'Kane MSP	Lorraine Coe
Elaine Stevens	Leanne Creighton	Pauline Ellison	Donald MacAskill
Emma Carduff	Libby Sallnow	Peter Kiehlmann	Caroline Sime
Fiona MacCormick	Liz Forbat	Rebecca Patterson	Michael Veitch
Fiona O'Brien	Lorna Porteous	Rhona Baillie	Rob Gowans
Frances Downer	Lorna Stewart	Sally Hughes	

Agenda item 1

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Mark Hazelwood welcomed everyone, explaining that the Convener of the group, Bob Doris, had been delayed in another Committee meeting and would join this meeting as soon as he was able. In the meantime, Mark would chair the meeting, starting with agenda item 3. He introduced Paul O'Kane MSP and encouraged everyone to introduce themselves in the chat.

This item was taken next:

Agenda item 3

3.1 Presentation: The Lancet Commission on the Value of Death

Libby Sallnow, co-chair of the commission, presented an overview of the report of the Lancet Commission on the Value of Death (PowerPoint slides attached).

3.2 Group Discussion: What are we already doing in Scotland, and what more do we need to do, to meet the recommendations set out by the Lancet Commission?

Group discussion included the following points:

- Within many cultures people feel a need to show that they are doing ‘all they can’ to help someone who is dying, whether or not all the actions being taken are likely to have a positive impact.
- Soul midwives and death doulas can play an important role but there are barriers to their acceptance by professionals and the wider system.
- Electronic systems need to enable and support good communication.
- Specialist palliative care services can contribute towards the ‘realistic utopia’ outlined in the commission’s report by sharing stories about what death is like and what support people can provide, and by helping people from other parts of health and social care and beyond to see their role in improving experiences of caring, dying and grieving.
- System theory can provide some helpful insights into how to change death systems. For example, there is a need to link up what are often seen as separate issues, like compassionate communities, bereavement projects and palliative care projects. It would also be helpful to map death systems.

Home page for the Commission:

<https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/value-of-death>

At this point, Convener Bob Doris MSP took over the chair.

This item was taken next:
Agenda item 2

Approval of and matters arising from the previous meeting on 7 December 2021:

2.1 Approval of the minute of the meeting of 7 December 2021

The minute of the previous meeting was adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2.2 Letter to SG – *Every Story’s Ending/ human right to palliative care*

Bob Doris wrote to Humza Yousaf drawing attention to the importance of *Every Story’s Ending* in informing future strategy development, and its recommendation that there should be a human right to palliative care in the forthcoming Scottish Human Rights Bill.

A reply was received which will be circulated to members for information.

ACTION: The Partnership to take forward

2.3 The future of palliative and end of life care research in Scotland

An action arising from the last meeting:

“Miles Briggs and Bob Doris will liaise with the SPPC and presenters to explore how they might usefully inform and influence future work in this area.”

No action has yet been taken on this, so a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

This item was taken next: Agenda item 4

Presentation: The Future of Hospice Care in Scotland Report (August 2021)

Rhona Baillie, CEO, Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow
Alexander Close, Policy and Advocacy Manager Scotland, Hospice UK

Rhona and Alex delivered a presentation on the report between Hospice UK and the Scottish Hospice Leadership Group designed to stimulate further discussion and collaboration, and drive forward change (PowerPoint slides attached)

Main points from ensuing discussion included:

- on behalf of all the Scottish hospices Rhona thanked the Scottish Government for their financial support during the pandemic
- hospices need to be seen as equal partners locally and nationally – they are often invited to the table at the eleventh hour
- sustainable hospice funding needs to be resolved and addressed by the national strategy
- hospices find it difficult to attract staff as they are not able to offer Agenda for Change terms and conditions
- hospice interservice communication needs to be fully connected to the NHS national digital platform to allow true integration and collaboration
- a number of recommendations relating to hospices are made in the SPPC document [Every Story's Ending](#)
- as a national hospice group it would be beneficial this year to pull together an action plan for hospices – this will be led by the national strategy
- the Compassionate Communities work carried out by Ardgowan Hospices was a fantastic piece of work
- the six Glasgow hospices have discussed funding Compassionate Communities through the NHS Endowment Fund and offered to support a recruited person to take this forward – hospices agreed this post should be at a fairly senior level and hosted outwith palliative care
- one huge issue for hospices (and others) is tackling inequalities in communities which has steadily worsened over the past couple of years.

The Future of Hospice Care in Scotland Report: [Summary version](#) [full report](#)

Agenda item 5

Future meetings.

The date/ time of the next meeting will be circulated to members once agreed with the Convener.

UPDATE: *the next meeting (including the AGM) is on Wednesday 08 June 2022 from 1.00pm – 2.30 pm via ZOOM.*