

Convener
Michael McMahon MSP

Vice Conveners
Jamie McGrigor MSP
Dennis Robertson

Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Hazelwood

**Approved Minute of the meeting of the Cross-Party Group
in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care**

**Wednesday 29 June 2011 at 5.45 pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament Headquarters**

Attending:

Michael McMahon MSP (Convenor)
Siobhan McMahon MSP

Philip Atkinson, Health Policy Scotland
Alison Blezard, Scottish Kidney Federation
Dorothy Boyle, Edinburgh Supportive and Palliative Care Group
Sandra Campbell, RCN Scotland
Andy Carver, British Heart Foundation
Stuart Coates, Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains
Margaret Colquhoun, St Columba's Hospice
Anne Finucane, Research Facilitator, Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
Evonne Gourlay, Executive Secretary, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Carol Gray, Edinburgh Napier University
Belinda Hacking, Edinburgh Cancer Centre
Mark Hazelwood, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Susan Jackson, Accord Hospice
Paula McCormack, Highland Hospice
Maria McGill, Children's Hospice Association Scotland
Elaine MacLean, SCSWIS
Irene McKie, Strathcarron Hospice
Scott Murray, University of Edinburgh
Bruce Nicol, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Anne Robb, NHS Tayside
Geoff Sage, St Andrew's Hospice
Ros Scott, Children's Hospice Association Scotland
Elizabeth Thomas, Clinical Services Director, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
John Welsh, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

Apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP
Jamie McGrigor MSP (Vice-convenor)
Fiona McLeod MSP
Dennis Robertson MSP (Vice-convenor)
Mary Scanlon MSP
Richard Simpson MSP
Dave Thompson MSP

Jackie Bell, GMC
Jacqueline Husband, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice
Elaine Peace, NHS Borders
Helen Dryden, NHS Tayside

Shirley Fife, NHS Lothian
Linda Kerr, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Barry Laird, St Andrew's Hospice
Kate Lennon, St Vincent's Hospice
Thomas McInnes, Macmillan Cancer Support
Sandra McConnell, Ardgowan Hospice
Suzanne Nimmo, NHS Forth Valley
Euan Paterson, RCGP
Jayne Scotland, NHS Lothian
Karen Strickland, Edinburgh Napier University
Margaret Thomson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Janet Trundle, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
John Walley, ACCORD Hospice
Maggie White, Marie Curie Cancer Care
Dan Wynn, GMC

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Michael McMahon welcomed attendees to the meeting, and explained that although several apologies had been received from MSPs unable to attend, the group had received enough interest and support to be re-constituted in this parliamentary session pending the completion of necessary formalities at the current meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Election of Office Bearers

Michael McMahon explained that the group had to be formally re-constituted following the recent Parliamentary election. He then handed over the Chair to Mark Hazelwood, who asked for nominations for the role of Convenor.

Maria McGill nominated Michael McMahon as Convenor. This was seconded by Stuart Coates, and Michael McMahon accepted the role and resumed as Chair of the meeting.

Michael McMahon explained that Dennis Robertson MSP and Jamie McGrigor MSP had expressed willingness to be Vice Convenors of the group. Michael nominated Dennis Robertson and Jamie McGrigor as joint Vice Convenors, and this was seconded by Maria McGill.

Michael McMahon nominated Mark Hazelwood as Secretary/Treasurer, and this was seconded by Scott Murray.

3. Minute of previous meeting of 3 November 2010

The minutes of the cross party group meeting of 3 November 2010 were approved.
(Proposed: Sandra Campbell; Seconded: Maria McGill)

4. Matters arising from the meeting of 3 November 2010

4.1 International perspectives on palliative care from economically developing countries (item 3.1)

Michael McMahon explained that despite efforts to bring together a group of MSPs interested in international perspectives on palliative care from economically developing countries, this has not been possible for various reasons. It was agreed that the momentum that had built up on this issue following the joint meeting between the cross party groups on palliative care and international development (held in September 2009) has now been lost,

and that this item should be left off the agenda until such time as the necessary ground work can be undertaken, possibly in the form of another joint cross party group meeting.

5. Presentation: Launch of *A beginner's guide to successful palliative care research*.

John Welsh, Professor of Palliative Medicine, and chair of the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care's Research Guidance Advisory Group gave a presentation. (Slides attached at Appendix 1.) He provided some background to the history of and necessity for palliative care research, and introduced the recent Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care publication *A beginner's guide to successful palliative care research*. He went on to outline recent relevant developments that will affect palliative care research, and some hopes for the future. *A beginner's guide to successful palliative care research* is available on the website of the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care: www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk

6. Presentation: some current palliative care research

Professor Scott Murray, St Columba's Hospice Chair of Primary Palliative Care gave a presentation outlining some ways in which Scottish palliative care research is leading internationally as well as making a difference in Scotland. (Slides attached at Appendix 2.)

7. Questions and discussion

There was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the speakers, and discussion included the following issues:

- The recent publication of the Christie Commission Report on the future delivery of public services has highlighted the importance of preventative spend. It is important that MSPs are made aware of the ways that palliative care can support this, for example through practices and approaches which can reduce inappropriate hospital admission, prevent futile treatment, facilitate discharge, and support patients and families in the community.
- The role that research can have in highlighting the different decisions people might make and the different treatment models that might be used if predictable and unavoidable deterioration was accepted and communicated, and the value of using palliative and aggressive treatments simultaneously was more widely understood.
- Whether Scotland is well-placed to undertake research in certain areas, for example research relating to alcoholic liver disease.
- Research relating to inequalities in how people die depending on various socio-economic factors, for example rural areas vs cities; proximity to a hospice; affluence; need.
- The potential usefulness of a Scottish database for storing information relating to recent and current palliative care research, which amongst other things could include information about MSc research that currently goes unpublished. Useful resources along these lines include the National Cancer Research Network's database, though this is not comprehensive since it is limited to details of substantially funded clinical trials related to cancer.

ACTION Michael McMahon will share with colleagues information about how palliative care can support current drives to save money while improving the quality of services.

8. Any other competent business

No further business was raised.

9 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Cross Party Group is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16 November at 5.45.pm.