Unapproved minute of the meeting of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Wednesday 12 December 2012 at 5.45pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Present:
- Michael McMahon MSP (Convener) Member for Uddingston and Bellshill
- Siobhan McMahon MSP Member for Central Scotland
- Fiona McLeod MSP Member for Strathkelvin & Bearsden
- Phil Atkinson Press Association
- Matt Barclay Community Pharmacy Scotland
- Jackie Bell General Medical Council in Scotland
- Alison Blezard Scottish Kidney Federation
- Sandra Campbell RCN
- Rev Stuart Coates Association of Palliative Care Chaplains
- Margaret Colquhoun St Columba’s Hospice, Edinburgh
- Helen Dryden NHS Tayside
- Shirley Fife NHS Lothian
- Vincent Finney Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
- Rebecca Gatherum Scottish Care
- Dr Belinda Hacking NHS Lothian
- Paula McCormack Highland Hospice
- Annamarie McGregor Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Jane Miller Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice
- Tanith Muller Parkinson’s UK
- Naomi Phillips General Pharmaceutical Council
- Barbara Stevenson Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
- Julie Watson University of Edinburgh
- Susan Webster MND Scotland
- Lorraine Wilson St Columba’s Hospice, Edinburgh

In attendance:
- Mark Hazelwood Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
- Dr Sally Lawton NHS Grampian
- Ranald Mair Scottish Care
- Dr Anne Finucane Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh

Apologies:
- Jackie Baillie MSP Member for Dumbarton
- Ken Macintosh MSP Member for Eastwood
- John Bannon Health Watch Scotland
- Derek Blues Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
- Pauline Britton Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
- Dr Duncan Brown St Columba’s Hospice
- Dr Pat Carragher CHAS
- Josaleen Connolly NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Dr Derek Doyle Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies:

The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted on previous page and above. A special welcome was given to those who would be presenting.

2. Minute of Previous meeting held on 12 September 2012

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and was proposed for adoption by the Reverend Stuart Coats and seconded by Sandra Campbell.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 12th September

3.1 Margo MacDonald MSP’s Proposed Assisted Suicide Bill

The proposal to introduce a Bill has received the requisite level of MSP support. It is understood that a draft bill is now being produced with decisions about timetabling of committee scrutiny expected in the New Year.

3.2 SPPC Annual Conference and AGM 2012

The conference was well attended and positively evaluated. At the AGM the Partnership decided to create a new constituency group to reflect the interests of stakeholders involved in palliative care for babies, children and young people. Members were invited to suggest topics and speakers for the 2013 SPPC Annual Conference.
4. Presentations and discussion: *Palliative Care in Care Homes*

**Living and Dying Well in Care Homes** (Ranald Mair)

**Promoting confidence in Palliative Care in Care Homes** (Dr Sally Lawton)

**Sustaining improved end-of-life care in Midlothian care homes** (Dr Anne Finucane)

The slides of each presenter are appended. Discussion followed which included the following points:

- There was variation in the quality of care provided in care homes for elderly people. There is a need for investment in staffing levels and training. Good management and leadership is key to quality care. A change in management personnel is now a key trigger for the regulator.
- Although private sector providers may make a profit, they usually still cost less than NHS or Local authority providers.
- The work done by care homes to develop and improve palliative and end of life care was acknowledged.
- It was recognised that there was inequity of NHS support to care homes.
- Care homes were one component in a system. The NHS, local authorities and regulators also had an impact upon, and a responsibility for, the quality of care provided in care homes.
- Some of the approaches used to improve palliative care in care homes were now being used in community hospitals and medicine of the elderly units.
- People with Parkinson’s may often lose touch with their specialist team when in a care home.
- Advance/anticipatory care planning was even more important where there was fast turnover of staff.
- The registration and professionalization of care workers would lead eventually to better terms and conditions, and a reduction in turnover (with associated negative consequences for care).

5. Any other competent business:

5.1 Draft National Quality Indicators for Palliative Care

It was noted that these indicators were out for consultation with a closing date of 21 December 2012.

5.2 The Liverpool Care Pathway

The misleading media coverage coming primarily from the Daily Mail was noted. The meeting expressed regret at the consequent distress this was causing to families and patients. It was agreed that the LCP might be a good topic for a future meeting of the Group.

6. Dates of meetings in 2013:

- Wednesday 13 March 2013 - Committee Room 1
- Wednesday 12 June 2013 - Committee Room 3
- Wednesday 11 September 2013 - Committee Room 3
- Wednesday 11 December 2013 - Committee Room 3

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.34.