

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament  
on Palliative Care**

**Convener**  
Michael McMahon MSP

**Vice-Conveners**  
Jamie McGrigor MSP  
Dennis Robertson MSP

**Secretary**  
Mark Hazelwood

**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**

<b>Present:</b>	Michael McMahon MSP (Convener) Siobhan McMahon MSP Fiona McLeod MSP Phil Atkinson Matt Barclay Jackie Bell Alison Blezard Sandra Campbell Rev Stuart Coates Margaret Colquhoun Helen Dryden Shirley Fife Vincent Finney Rebecca Gatherum Dr Belinda Hacking Paula McCormack Annamarie McGregor Jane Miller Tanith Muller Naomi Phillips Barbara Stevenson Julie Watson Susan Webster Lorraine Wilson	Member for Uddingston and Bellshill  Member for Central Scotland Member for Strathkelvin & Bearsden Press Association Community Pharmacy Scotland General Medical Council in Scotland Scottish Kidney Federation RCN Association of Palliative Care Chaplains St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh NHS Tayside NHS Lothian Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Scottish Care NHS Lothian Highland Hospice Royal Pharmaceutical Society Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice Parkinson's UK General Pharmaceutical Council Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh University of Edinburgh MND Scotland St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mark Hazelwood Dr Sally Lawton Ranald Mair Dr Anne Finucane	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care NHS Grampian Scottish Care Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh
<b>Apologies:</b>	Jackie Baillie MSP Ken Macintosh MSP John Bannon Derek Blues Pauline Britton Dr Duncan Brown Dr Pat Carragher Josaleen Connolly Dr Derek Doyle	Member for Dumbarton Member for Eastwood Health Watch Scotland Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care St Columba's Hospice CHAS NHS Ayrshire and Arran Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

**Apologies:**  
(continued)

Dr Cameron Fergus	NHS Borders
Jackie Husband	Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice
Dr Peter Kiehlmann	NHS Grampian
Elaine MacLean	Care Inspectorate
Alison MacRobbie	NHS Highland
Dr Sandra McConnell	Ardgowan Hospice
Irene McKie	Strathcarron Hospice
Emily Montgomery	Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh
Clare Murphy	St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Professor Scott Murray	University of Edinburgh
James Neil	Association of Palliative Care Social Workers
Karen Nolan	NHS Fife
Dr David Oxenham	Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh
Euan Paterson	RCGP (Scotland)
Anne Robb	NHS Tayside
Geoff Sage	St Andrew's Hospice
Jane Scotland	NHS Lothian
Ros Scott	CHAS
Gillian Sherwood	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Helen Simpson	ACCORD Hospice
Kenny Steele	Highland Hospice
Ken Stevenson	Ardgowan Hospice
Craig Stockton	MND Scotland
Dr Chris Sugden	St Andrew's Hospice,
Elizabeth Thomas	St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Action**

#### 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.