

Grampian Bereavement Resource and Interest Group
Note of Meeting
Held on 25th November 2009
Seminar Room 1
Roxburghe House

Present: Mark Shaw, Paul Sclare, Francis Edwards, Alison Hutchison, Audrey Stephen, Colin Macduff (Chair), Shona Grant, Margaret Ritchie, Fred Coutts, Lisa Maxwell, Eileen Wheeler, Michelle Winton, Allan Leslie.

Apologies: Liz Tait, Peter Wimpenny, Gordon Linklater

Minutes and matters arising

Colin read through the minute of the previous meeting and the group were in agreement with the content.

Fred informed the group that he had copies of the SAMH publication, After a Suicide. He will provide copies to anyone who would like them. Allan said that he would circulate copies in the areas he works in.

Managing a death out of hours

Colin asked the group for feedback on the information sheet drafted by Peter Wimpenny and Dr Taylor. Members of the group were unsure who the sheet was designed for and who would provide information to relatives at the time of an out of hours death. It was thought that it would be the police officers who were attending. Alison wondered if it could be supplied as part of the information pack for the bereaved that she and others are developing. Colin agreed to liaise with Grampian Police to find out what is already given information wise, and whether it would be appropriate for this kind of information to be given. He will also discuss with Liz Tait.

Allan Leslie brought the group's attention to a draft nursing policy document, Guidelines for the Verification of an Expected Death in Grampian. The policy is for patients aged 16 years and over. It is intended that the policy be validated by December 2009. He invited the group to examine the document and pass comments to him as soon as possible.

Bereavement care for older people

Audrey talked to the group about her PhD research project on bereavement care for older people. She also presented draft guideline documents that she developed from the interview data collected. The guidelines are for the use of general practice and community nursing staff, hospital ward staff, and nursing home staff to inform the care delivered to bereaved older people. She asked members of the group if they would be willing to examine the documents and provide her with feedback on the contents.

Bereavement Information

Alison H briefly updated the group on work on the bereavement information project. She said that she had received a 52% response rate

to the survey. Margaret said that production of the current bereavement booklet had ceased and that we would wait for the results of the study before drafting an in house version. It was also thought that we should wait for the national guidelines to be published.

Bereavement Framework for Scotland

Francis said that the development of the national framework was progressing rapidly. The group asked whether the framework had wider application than the NHS. Francis and Audrey explained that the aim was to make recommendations to NHS boards about how they should be addressing bereavement. There is no wider application outside the NHS. The final document will complement the already published guidance, Living and Dying Well.

Preparing nurses for bereavement care

Michelle Winton, a fourth year nursing student at The Robert Gordon University, introduced her dissertation project to the group. She has concerns that student nurses are not well prepared through their training to interact with bereaved relatives and break bad news. Discussion took place about members of the group's experiences of involving students in bereavement care. Audrey indicated that there may be things in her guideline documents that may be helpful.

2nd National Conference of Bereavement in a Healthcare Setting: Living with Loss

Audrey circulated the flyer for the conference round the group. The conference will take place on 2nd and 3rd September 2010 in Dundee. The main themes of the conference are: resilience; decision making and grief; relational care; grief assessment; and bereavement research. Keynote speakers are: Professor Irwin Sandler; Dr Maggie Sque; Professor Danai Papadatou. Further information on the conference website:

<http://www.ncbhs.org.uk/index.asp>

Colin asked if the group could present something at the conference and asked people to think about it. Francis suggested that we could do something on physician assisted suicide.

AOB

Francis informed the group that the Neonatal Care Pathway for End of Life has been published. It can be found on the ACT website:

<http://www.act.org.uk/page.asp?section=116§ionTitle=ACT's+neonatal+care+pathway+for+babies+with+palliative+care+needs>

Date and Time of Next Meeting

24th February 2010, 3pm, Roxburghe House
Allan Leslie will chair

Subsequent meetings: 26th May 2010, 3-5pm
25th August 2010, 3-5pm
24th November 2010, 3-5pm

(Room bookings confirmed)