



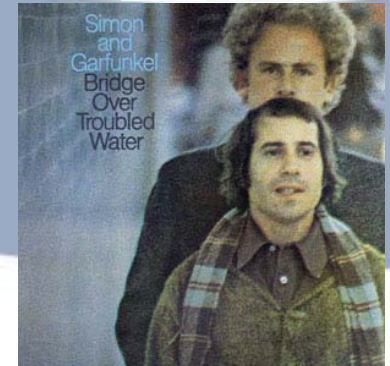
# A bridge over troubled water

## Some reflections on the role of hospital chaplains

Rev Fred Coutts

Head of Spiritual Care, NHS Grampian

When you're weary  
Feeling small  
When tears are in your eyes  
I will dry them all  
I'm on your side  
When times get rough  
And friends just can't be found  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down



# Hospital Chaplains

- Every hospital has a chaplain
- Team of whole-time chaplains in Aberdeen
- A few hours a week in Community Hospitals






**'It's OK I don't need to see you yet'**

## A bridge for patients

- Approaching death
- What does this mean
- Spiritual Care
- Links with faith group



**'Illness' and 'Hospitals' raise many spiritual questions**



What's happening to me?  
I miss my family ..  
Why did this happen to ME?  
.. have I been a bad person?

## A bridge for patients

- Death of a relative
- Simultaneous funeral



## A bridge for families and relatives

- Time
- Words
- Interpreter
- Faith groups
- Practical



## A bridge for families and relatives

- Funerals
- Stillborn babies and children
- Memorial Services
- Memorial Books
- Support Groups



## A bridge for staff

- Staff hurt too
- Work situations
- Family funerals



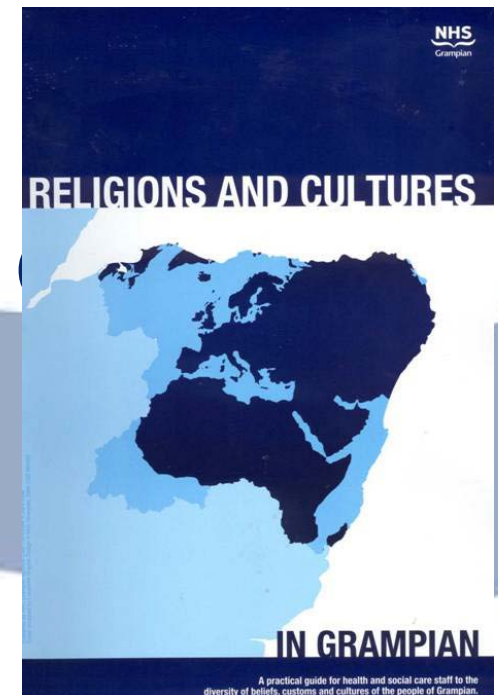
## A bridge for everyone

- Hospital Chapels/Quiet rooms
- Places of peace for reflection, prayer, meditation
- Uses by all faiths and none
- Worship
- Major Incident Plan



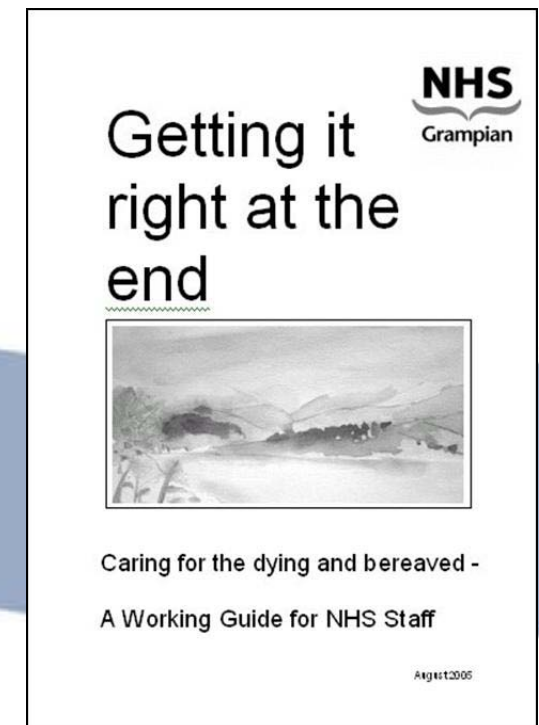
## A bridge for staff

- Information
- Religions and Cultures in Grampian
- Published by NHSG Spiritual Committee
- Text on NHSG Intranet



## A bridge for staff

- Working group on caring for dying and bereaved
- “Getting it right at the end”

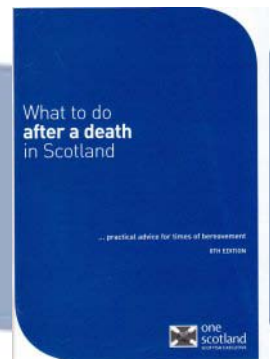
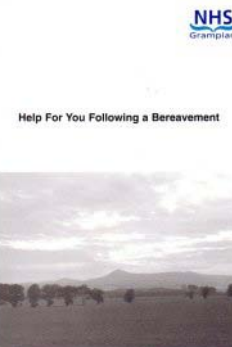


# A bridge for staff

- Information for relatives
- New edition in production

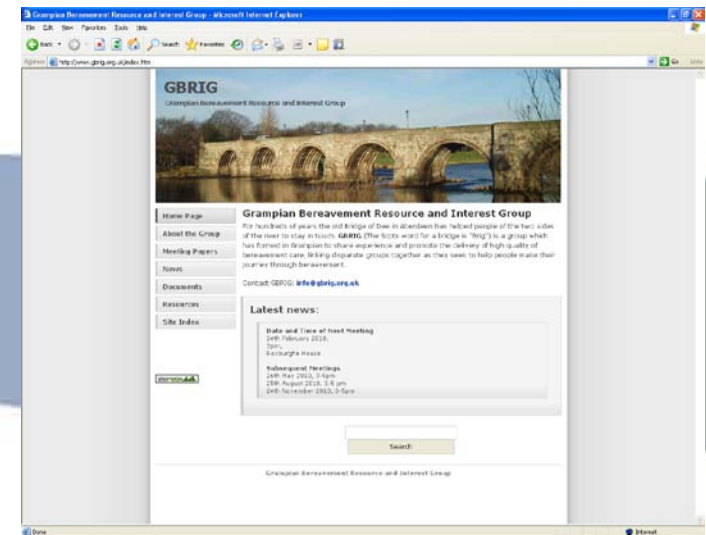


*Some information  
that may help you*



# A bridge for staff

- GBRIG
- Grampian Bereavement Resource and Interest Group
- [www.gbrig.org.uk](http://www.gbrig.org.uk)





## GBRIG

For hundreds of years the old Bridge of Dee in Aberdeen has helped people of the two sides of the river to stay in touch. **GBRIG** (The Scots word for a bridge is "Brig") is a group which has formed in Grampian to share experience and promote the delivery of high quality of bereavement care, linking disparate groups together as they seek to help people make their journey through bereavement.

## A bridge for staff

- National Initiatives
- Bereavement Framework project
- Living and Dying Well

## A bridge for staff

- Bereavement Framework Project
- .....the need to develop guidance for the NHS in Scotland on delivering good bereavement support to relatives and carers, and that support should be available across all NHS Boards and regardless of the nature of the illness which led to the death.

## A bridge for staff

- Issues around the time of death
- Issues around ongoing bereavement support
- Issues around staff support and training
- Issues around the coordination of bereavement work

## A bridge for staff

- Bereavement Framework Project
- .....the need to develop guidance for the NHS in Scotland on delivering good bereavement support to relatives and carers, and that support should be available across all NHS Boards and regardless of the nature of the illness which led to the death.



## A bridge for staff

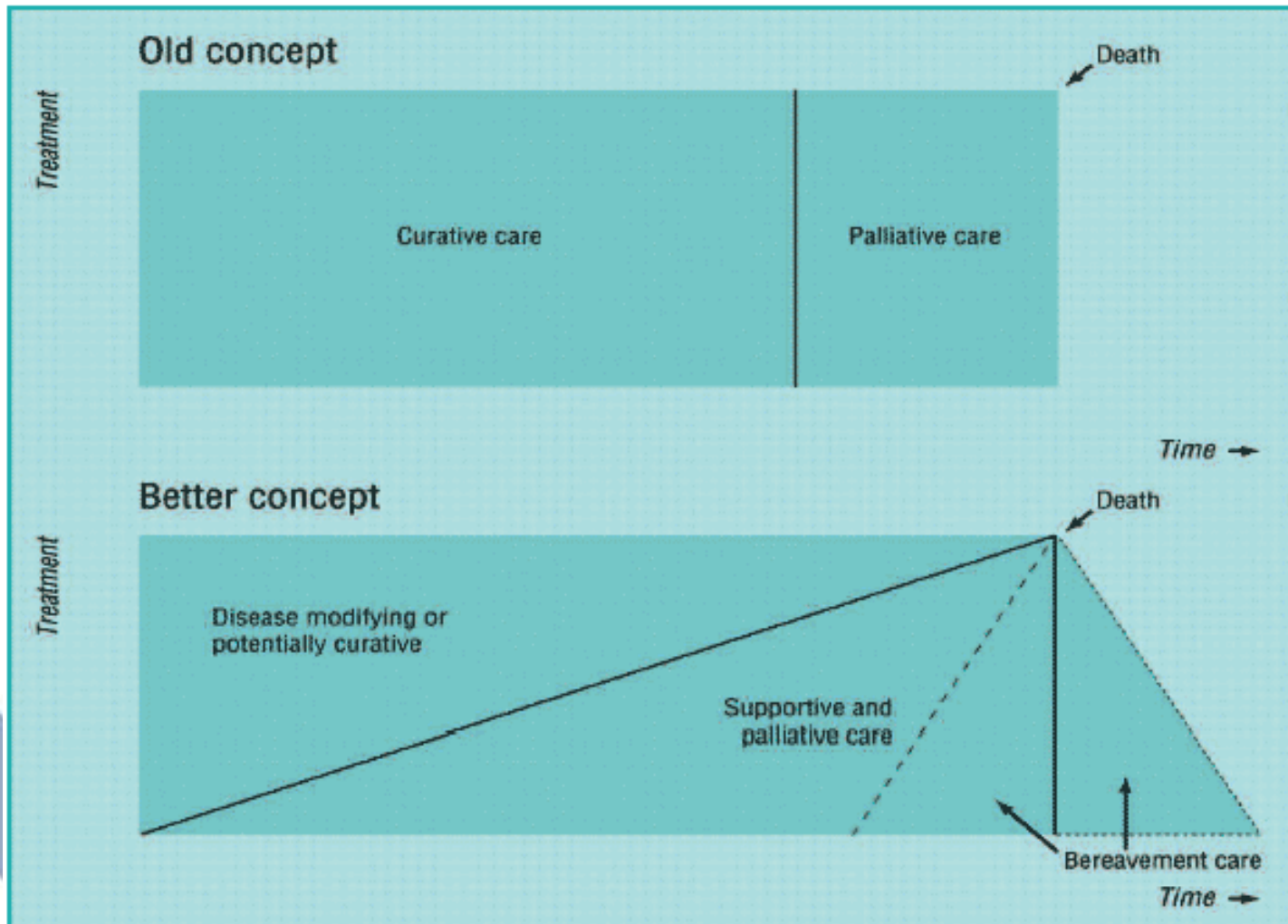
....the focus and momentum to ensure our strategic priority to improve palliative and end of life care services becomes a practical reality and is applicable to all geographical areas of Scotland. We will continue to work collaboratively with the palliative care community in Scotland, and the voluntary sector in particular, and we will work with patients and carers to ensure that we can accelerate and consolidate the good progress already made.

**Nicola Sturgeon, MSP**  
**Deputy First Minister**  
**and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing**



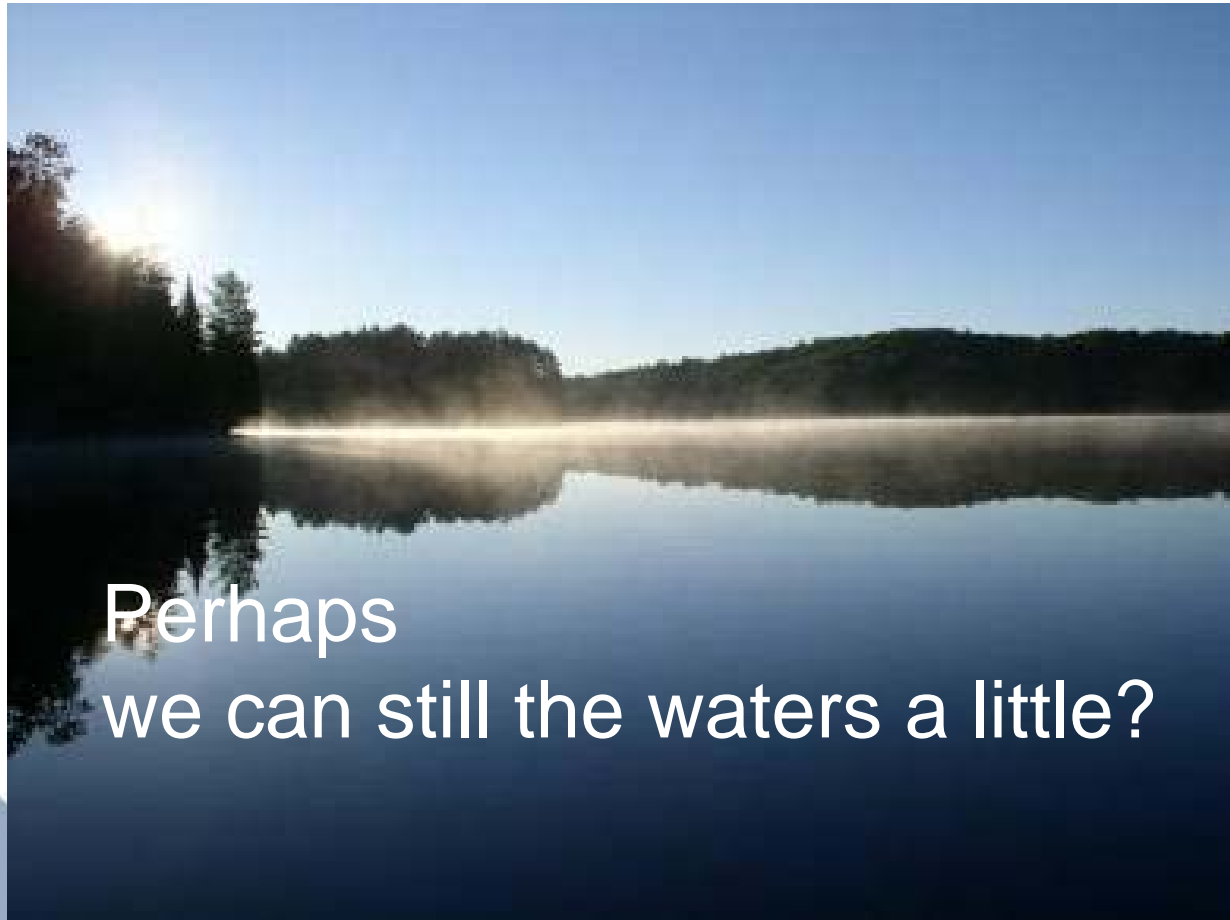


The Scottish Government



I'll take your part  
When darkness comes  
And pain is all around  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down





Perhaps  
we can still the waters a little?