

Grampian Bereavement Resource and Interest Group
Note of Meeting
Held on 26th May 2010
Seminar Room 1
Roxburghe House

Present: Allan Leslie(chair), Peter Wimpenny, Paul Sclare, Francis Edwards, Audrey Stephen, Shona Grant, Mark Shaw, Colin Macduff, Elaine Ross, Gordon Linklater, Fred Coutts, Eileen Wheeler.

Apologies: Margaret Ritchie, Rosie Bird, Liz Tait

Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

Bereavement Framework for Scotland

Copies of the fourteen recommendations drafted in Shaping Bereavement Care were circulated. Group members took some time to read through. The guideline is for the use of health boards, NHS Education Scotland, and generally by NHS staff. Group members liked the recommendations but were sceptical about the ability of boards to implement them under current financial constraints. It was reported that the co-ordinator of the guideline development group, John Birrell, would visit health boards during the autumn to promote Shaping Bereavement Care. Comments on the recommendations were invited and Audrey agreed to collect them and feed them back to John Birrell.

Sudden expected death

Peter reported that a response from the group had been submitted for the Scottish Government consultation paper on death certification, burial and cremation as regards sudden expected death. No feedback has yet been received. Gordon said that new guidelines on DNACPR are due to be launched in October and he thought that should have an impact on sudden expected death. He expected that terminally ill people in the community, i.e. in care homes, community hospitals, or in their own homes, would get the opportunity to sign DNACPR forms. This may negate the need for distressing formalities at the time of death.

Bereavement information

Peter informed the group that the audit of bereavement information was completed. Copies of the executive summary report were circulated. Gordon wondered whether the study was an audit as it wasn't set against an existing standard. The group agreed that it was a survey but thought that it was important that it became an audit against a standard in Shaping Bereavement Care.

The outcome was recommendation to the Death and Dying group at NHS Grampian that a new version of the booklet should be developed. Reviewing the booklet is now urgent as the current version is out of date though a substitute is in circulation but stocks are low. However, the

group thought that review should wait for publication of Shaping Bereavement Care.

Paul identified that it was important to give people an opportunity to return to the place of death to discuss events with clinical staff. Discussion took place about current arrangements, and how it would be best to facilitate such a meeting.

Educational resources

Paul informed the group that he had been talking about clinical supervision with a Cruse counsellor. He wondered if this group could be a forum for people to speak openly about experiences they have had of death, dying and bereavement in their practice. This could be open to NHS staff, care home staff etc. He invited the group to bring thoughts on this to the next meeting.

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

Audrey reminded the group about the conference taking place on 2nd/3rd September in Dundee. Because there was no funding in the NHS for staff to attend the group wondered about video conferencing or recording the conference on DVD. Audrey said this had been spoken about at the conference planning committee previously and that she would follow it up.

Socio-economic costs of bereavement

Peter informed the group that RGU would be hosting a research assistant to work in collaboration with University of Dundee on a project about the costs of bereavement. He explained that costs are poorly documented in terms of lost days of work etc. Work has already been done in this area in England by University of York. He was as yet unsure when or where the post would be advertised.

Website

Fred reported that the website has low numbers of hits, between 6 and 31 per month over the last year. Average 15 per month. There had been 31 in April and this was attributed to the Elgin presentations being available. The website currently contains profiles of group members, meeting papers, news, and resources. Fred thought that there wasn't much there and wondered whether it was worth maintaining. He also wondered about adding a discussion board, but wasn't convinced that people would use it. Most group members thought that it was useful and should be kept going. Fred said that it would cost £50-100 per year to run.

AOB

Paul thought that when a bereavement co-ordinator is appointed by NHS Grampian he or she should be invited to join GBRIG. The group agreed.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

25th August, 2010, 3pm, Roxburghe House. Fred Coutts will chair (SG & FE apologised in advance).

Subsequent meeting: 24th November