

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport
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Mr Duncan McNeil MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee



By Email.

22 March 2016

Dear Duncan,

PALLIATIVE CARE EVIDENCE SESSION – 26 January 2016

At the evidence session on 26 January 2016 I said I would provide the Committee with further information concerning palliative and end of life care in Scotland.

The information is presented in Annex A and covers the specific questions raised during the evidence session where further information was sought by the Committee.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

SHONA ROBISON

PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE IN SCOTLAND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Capturing Patient, Family and Carer Experiences – VOICES

Scottish Government is working in partnership with NHS Lothian to take forward a VOICES type survey in conjunction with a pro-active survey exercise through Patient Opinion to capture end of life experiences of family members and carers who have been bereaved. It is planned that this work will report towards the end of 2016. The outputs will help provide local Health and Social Care Partnerships with a variety of possible approaches to sourcing family and carer experience in order to help inform local improvement work.

Care and Support Planning (continuity of care)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland Living Well in Communities improvement work includes a focus on care and support planning. Two clinical leads have been specifically appointed to lead this work – Dr Stuart Cummings, Associate Medical Director NHS Forth Valley and Ms Janette Barrie, Consultant Nurse NHS Lanarkshire. Links with this work and palliative and end of life care improvement work have been made and additional resources have been made available to support targeted improvement work in this area.

More information will be published in the Strategic Framework for Action Implementation Plans that are due to be published in the summer with progress reported in the annual national overview report that is due to be published at the end of 2016.

Guidance to support Health and Social Care Partnerships Strategic Commissioning Plans in relation to palliative and end of life care

Scottish Government has established a short-life working group to develop, by the summer 2016, a palliative and end of life care guidance note to assist with the development of Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plans. Membership of the group is drawn from across health, social care partnerships and the independent hospice sector. A first meeting of the group is being held on 30 March 2016.

Hospice Funding Review

A review of Independent Hospice funding was announced at the Health and Sport Committee Evidence Session on 26 January 2016. This review is due to report by the end of 2016.

Care for young adults with life shortening conditions – Respite break case studies

The pilot break to Leuchie House was useful in gathering feedback and experience around what worked well, and what did not but this building-based service should be viewed as one of a range of options for people's respite plans. The CHAS Transition Team will continue to explore the potential for further collaborative projects which could enable young people with life-limiting conditions to have short breaks out with a hospice environment. Current respite plans, accessed via care packages and direct payments through Self-directed Support include:

- one young person who will access respite facilities in local community taking staff from their current care package to provide support as they know this young person and complexities of their condition.
- Another young person has planned to go to accessible holiday cottage with staff from current care package.
- One Young Person who previously had no care package, now has PA employed to support with college and social activities. Hope to access short breaks with other young people but also with family members and is currently researching useful holiday information list for appropriate facility