

CHAS Square Table Event, Tuesday 20 November in Edinburgh

I was delighted to be asked to represent the Hub at this interesting event exploring the future development of children's palliative care in Scotland.

The "Square Table" format is designed to recognise the "equal weight and importance of all participants' views", and provided a well-facilitated discussion between panel members that included Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil MSP, alongside professionals and policy makers from the health, education, social care and faith communities, the third sector and hospices. Very importantly, the panel also included a number of parents who spoke powerfully of their own unique views and experiences, putting the needs of children and young people with life-limiting conditions at the very heart of the debate.

At the end of the event, attendees were asked to pledge an action which will positively impact on future service provision and coincide with the roll-out of "A Framework for the Delivery of Palliative Care for Children and Young People in Scotland". On behalf of the Scottish Grief & Bereavement Hub, I pledged:

- To offer a supportive community of practice for professionals working with bereavement-related issues – both as part of anticipatory end of life care planning and post-bereavement support. I also explained that as a relatively new community of practice, the Hub would welcome those involved with children's palliative care to come on board and help shape the agenda going forward.
- To look specifically at the informational needs of those who experience the death of a child, and to take forward discussions about possible new resources.

All the pledges and notes of the event will be developed into a report which will be available on the CHAS website in due course.