

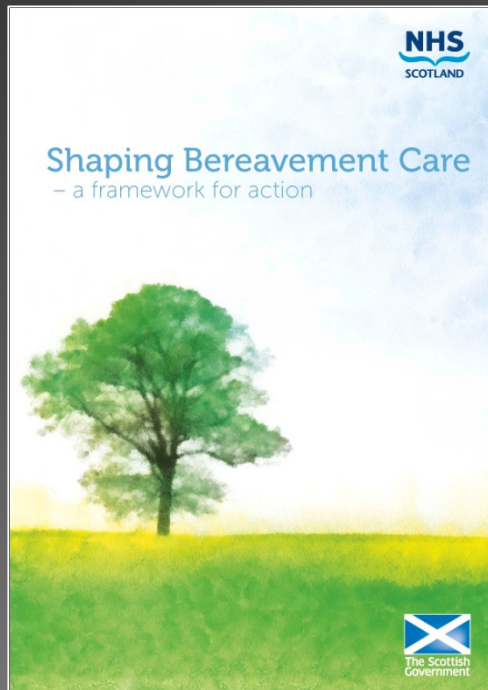


Scottish Grief &
Bereavement Hub

John Birrell
Convener

NBA – London 080713






The Hub



Recommendation 14:
SGHD should support the establishment and maintenance of a national network forum to facilitate a link and sharing of good practice between bereavement coordinators and other partners in planning and delivering bereavement care. (Chapter 5)

The Hub – Vision agreed February 2012

The Hub will act as a network of resources for improving the quality of bereavement care throughout NHSScotland and in partner agencies by linking those professionally involved in planning and delivering bereavement care, and through:

-  disseminating news and information
-  promoting high quality education and training
-  affording opportunities for discussion and sharing of best practice
-  hosting the sharing of resources
-  representing the Scottish bereavement agenda, nationally and internationally

The Hub - organisation

- Funded by Scottish Government Health under the Person Centred agenda
- Hosted in NHS Tayside within the Tayside Centre for Organisational Effectiveness
- Led by a Convener
- Planning by Core Group representing Boards, Professional Bodies and Voluntary Sector
- Membership “those professionally involved in the planning, delivery, teaching and research of bereavement care in NHSS and partner agencies”
- Structure: evolving!

Current issues - 1

Death Certification:

- One signature on MCCD
- Review based on random sampling at Registration
- 25% Level 1 Review – discussion between MR and certifying doctor. Possibility of escalation
- 2% Level 2 Review – based on review of medical records
- Expedited review to be available
- No cost to bereaved
- Delays in funeral planning
- Implementation – on track for April 2014

Current issues - 2

Cremated Remains

- Dec 2012: News story – Edinburgh – parents had been told no ashes, remains had been disposed of by crematorium
- Further stories – press and tv coverage
- Parents action groups
- Edinburgh Council investigation - ongoing
- Call for public enquiry
- Commission appointed by Scottish Government – receiving submissions - report end of 2013 – legislation if required 2014
- *Issues: transparency of communication with families*

Current issues - 3

Disposal of pregnancy loss under 24 weeks

- 2010: Press story about fetuses
- FOI enquiry
- Working group
- Report: minimum standard of collective disposal at crematorium
- CMO/CNO letter 2012
- Implementation currently being audited

Current issues - 4

Funeral Poverty

- Raised with Hub by ABSCO Scottish committee
- Taken to Scottish Cross Party Group March 2012
- Sun Life report 2012 - Hub invited to UK round table
- Scottish Round Table conversation in April – meets again in September – feeds in to UK group
- Church of Scotland calls for report on funeral costs
- *Issues: Funeral Payment, transparency of funeral costs, funeral expectations and planning, direct cremations, local authority funerals*

Current issues - 5

Bereavement Education

- Three tier approach
- Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland – commissioned to develop e-learning for NHSS. 7 courses. 7000+ access
- NHS NES scoping study on bereavement education
- Initial focus on un-registered staff
- Education programme for doctors in association with death certification planning

Current issues - 6

Bereavement Literature

- When Someone Has Died – Health Boards, Hospices, Nursing Homes, GPs. Carried on all ambulances.
- Information, MCCD, contact card.
- New edition for April 2014 covering new death certification process
- Discussion re new publication: When a Child Has Died

Current issues - 7

Standards

- Plan for Bereavement Map of Scotland
- Standards to help quality assurance
- Suicide Bereavement – question re referring
- Signpost with Confidence – initially suicide, then general
- Borrow from NBA draft standards

Current issues - 8

UK Conference on Bereavement in a Healthcare Setting

- 2008: Pathways through Grief
- 2010: Living beyond Loss
- 2012: The Many Faces of Loss
- 2014: ??
- 2016: watch this space

The Future?

- Bereavement is on the agenda of every Scottish Health Board – lead and coordinator
- Some resources are in place
- External evaluation of the Hub underway
- Funding
- Structure



www.griefhub.org.uk