

*Better Health, Fairer Health*

**Regional advisory group for A Good Death**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 19 September 2008  
Board Room, NHS North East**

**Present :**

Edwin Pugh (Chair)	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Keith Aungiers	Public Health North East
Carole Price	North East Strategic Health Authority
Stephen Louw	Older People's Local Implementation Group
Angela Dinsdale	Chief Executive, St Cuthbert's Hospice
Jean Degenhardt	North East Region Cruse Bereavement Care
Janet Shucksmith	University of Teesside
Sandra Gray	Head of Community Services – Third Sector
Paul Southgate	Churches Regional Commission
Ian Zass-Ogilvie	St Chad's College, Durham University
Douglas Davies	Durham University – Centre for Death & Life Studies
Nonnie Crawford	Director of Public Health, Sunderland
Jeff Featherstone	North East Strategic Health Authority
Julie Marsh	North East Strategic Health Authority

**In attendance:**

Eugene Milne	Public Health North East
Marj Harrison	Public Health North East

**Apologies for absence:**

Judith Stone	Care Services Improvement Partnership
Catherine Murdoch	North East Public Health Observatory
Ewen Weir	DASS, Newcastle

**1. Introduction**

The Chairman introduced himself and explained his role. He welcomed members to the first meeting of the group and asked them to introduce themselves.

## 2. Overview presented by Eugene Milne

Eugene Milne presented an overview of the *Better Health, Fairer Health* regional strategy with specific reference to the *A Good Death* theme. General discussion following Eugene's presentation. The following points were raised:

- Resources should be spent on enabling choice of where to die and manner of death
- Need to promote health and quality of life amongst people who are dying
- Identification of resources should be linked to the personalisation agenda
- A charter for end of life was required to ensure common understanding and to promote cultural shift to attitudes to death and dying

## 3. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference were agreed subject to addition of an additional item clarifying the relationship between the work of the group and the related work of the 'Our Vision, Our Future' end of life care groups.

## 4. Membership Review

Members confirmed that they felt that the membership of the group comprised a good mix of interests. Some suggestions for potential new members were made:

- Adult social services – it was noted that Ewen Weir was already a member of the group
- Education representative
- Director of children's services
- Carers and representatives of the dying
- Third sector carer organisation - to be raised at the VONNE health and social care forum
- VONNE – Rhiannon Byrne
- Old Age Psychiatrist - Julian Hughes
- Association of North East Councils
- Black and ethnic representatives - Daljeet Singh
- Funeral director – it was agreed on hold for the present

### **Action:**

**KA to follow up suggestions for membership**

### **Action:**

**Group members to contact KA with any additional suggestions**

## 5. Stakeholder involvement

Members agreed that it would be useful to set up and maintain a register of

stakeholders with an interest in the theme.

**Action:**

**Group members to contact KA with details of stakeholders to be added to the register**

**6. Review of Commitments**

Members reviewed the commitments in the *A Good Death* chapter and agreed that the first priority area for action was development of charter for end of life. It was noted that the 'Our Vision, Our Future' commitment was that the charter should be available in draft consultation form by January 2009.

**7. Communications & Social Marketing**

Julie Marsh updated members of the group about proposals for a communications and social marketing collaborative. This would be available as a resource for regional advisory groups and would support requirements identified by the groups. A clear mechanism for identifying and prioritising requirements would be needed.

**8. Mechanisms for Change**

The group considered key mechanisms for change which would need to be addressed in order to take forward the strategic commitments:

- Commissioning of services through PCTs, local authorities and third sector organisations
- Delivering the national and regional requirements for end of life care
- Changing public perception and advising on good practice.

**9. Appointment of a Vice-Chair**

The group discussed the appointment of a vice-chair noting that amongst other duties this might entail attendance at the North East Public Health Board in place of the chair. Expressions of interest from members were invited.

**Action:**

**Expressions of interest from group members to be forwarded to KA before the next meeting**

**10. Proposed Next Steps**

It was agreed that the key next step for the group was to proceed with the task of drafting an end of life charter. This would involve:

- Literature search and review
- Examples of good practice from international experience
- Draft end of life charter

- Consultation plan
- Consultation launch at the end of January 2009

**Actions:**

- **EM/NC to identify public health trainee to carry out literature search and review**
- **KA to contact Professor Kellehear to obtain examples of good practice**
- **JM to prepare draft consultation plan**

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held at 10:00 on Thursday, 6 November at Citygate.

Suggested items for the Agenda included:

- 1 Summary of literature review and proposals for charter
- 2 Consultation and social marketing plan
- 3 Clarification of links with Darzi end of life groups
- 4 Membership review and update
- 5 Appointment of Vice Chair

A further meeting would be held on 16 January 2009.

26 September 2008