

Patients' Council, Royal Edinburgh Hospital

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.30-3pm, Thursday 6 December 2007, Board Room, Royal Edinburgh Hospital

NOTES

The meeting was chaired by Charlotte Mitchell, Chair of the Patients' Council, and was attended by 23 people.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Code of Conduct

Charlotte welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought everyone's attention to the Ground Rules on behaviour at our meetings. Apologies were received from Rosemary Carter, Lesley Smith, Heather Tierney-Moore and John McMahon.

Charlotte then introduced our speaker for the day, Sandra de Munoz, local co-ordinator for the 'Choose Life' campaign. In 2002, the Scottish Government launched Choose Life in 2002, a ten year strategy and action plan to reduce suicide in Scotland by 20%. Choose Life sets out a framework to ensure that action is taken nationally and locally to build skills, develop training, encourage people to seek help early, improve knowledge and awareness of 'what works' to prevent suicide, and to encourage partnership working and improved co-ordination between services. Suicide prevention is everyone's business. Around two people a day in Scotland commit suicide, although numbers in Edinburgh dropped last year. Sandra spoke about the screening of a very powerful film at the Filmhouse, 'The Bridge', which she is hoping to use as a teaching tool for staff. She is very involved in training and works closely with procurator fiscal, police and pathologists to provide support for people affected by suicide. She speaks in prisons, schools, etc to raise awareness and issues guidelines on reporting suicide to the media. There is a Suicide Review Team in the hospital, where support is offered to staff and other patients following a suicide in the hospital.

Sandra was warmly thanked for a most interesting and informative talk.

2. Amendments to the Constitution

Three categories of amendments were approved.

i) Changes at paras. 5.5.2 and 5.8 needed to update the wording of the Constitution to accommodate our decision at last year's AGM to elect office-bearers at the first Management Committee after the AGM.

ii) Changes to update the Constitution:

a) 2.2.3: change to "To resolve these concerns *by working jointly to encourage* changes and developments in services with *hospital* staff and management.'

b) 2.2.4: Remove 'SHAS' (no longer exists)

c) 2.2.7: delete – no longer in Patients' Council remit

d) 3.1: delete – no longer in Patients' Council remit

iii) These amendments reflect the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator:

a) 5.3.1: Add after para. 1:

“The Management Committee will ensure that the Patients’ Council complies with the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator. Individual user members will be required to sign a statement that they are eligible to serve on the Management Committee.”

b) 5.3.2: Para. 2 will now read:

“The user members of the Management Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting, following a nominations process prior to the Annual General Meeting.”

3. Notes of the Annual General Meeting on 30th March 2006

These were approved.

4. Annual Review of the work of the Patients’ Council

Charlotte read out her Annual Review. Both her review and the Support Worker’s review will be circulated with the next newsletter.

5. Election of members of the Management Committee

The following people were re-elected:

Elaine Dobbie, Lesley McDade, Charlotte Mitchell, Albert Nicolson, Patricia Whalley.

The following new members were elected:

Shirley Gowers, Irene Malloy, Alison Robertson, Andrew Shaw and Malcolm Zavier.

6. Date of first meeting of new Management Committee

This will take place on Wednesday 9th January.

7. Financial report

The 2005/2006 accounts were approved.

The 2006/2007 accounts were approved, subject to Management Committee satisfaction.

8. AOCB

Even if the Royal Edinburgh Hospital services move from the present site, this will not happen for 5-10 years. Tim Montgomery, Director of Operations, wants to make the hospital as pleasant as possible in the meantime, and to celebrate the hospital’s bicentenary in 2009. CAPS are also running a project called ‘Oor Mad History’, the history of the local service user movement since 1990. Anyone interested in either of these projects should contact the Patients’ Council, CAPS, Artlink or the Living Memories Association.