

**Baby Memorial Working Group  
Tuesday 21 May 2019 at 6pm  
City Chambers, Dunfermline**

**In Attendance**

The meeting was attended by 3 parents plus stakeholders.

**Meeting Summary**

This was an initial meeting to discuss proposals for creating a baby memorial in Fife. It was explained the Council had been approached by Thompsons solicitors with a proposal for a memorial.

By way of context, the group was advised of the approach adopted by Aberdeen City Council for creation of their commemorative baby memorial. It was explained there had been 3 public meetings. The meetings had been chaired by an independent advisor and working on behalf of the parents, a steering group had been created to assist with the selection and design of the memorial.

Based on the experience of Aberdeen and elsewhere, it was suggested that while Fife Council needed to take responsibility for the commissioning and creation of a memorial, selection of the form and location of the memorial should where possible be 'owned' by the parents and ideally collectively.

Discussion turned to the memorial proposals shared by Thompsons. Whilst the benefits of the work undertaken were acknowledged, the consensus of the group was that wider consultation needed to be undertaken with parents to ascertain their views of what they would wish to see in memorial to their babies.

There was also a general discussion on possible locations for a memorial.

It was suggested future meetings of the group should be in a more central location (not a church or crematorium) and that evenings and weekends should be considered if required.

**Next Steps**

It was agreed the Council would:

- Prepare a communication proposal to capture and assess the views of parents. It was agreed the group could be used as a 'sounding board' for the form, tone and language of communication materials.
- Contact to be made with Thompsons Solicitors to invite parents supportive of the Angel memorial to attend future group meetings so that the group was as representative as possible of the views of parents;
- Establish the approach adopted by Aberdeen City Council for engagement with parents; .
- Contact City of Edinburgh for information on how they managed communication with parents in relation to the baby memorial recently installed in Princes Street Gardens.
- Offer Befrienders to support parents.
- Contact NHS Fife, to advise of memorial project and enquire if a representative from NHS Fife would be willing to participate in future discussions.

**Date of Next Meeting**

To be arranged.