

Baby Memorial Working Group

Monday 10 February 2020 at 6pm

Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, Queen Margret Hospital, Dunfermline

In Attendance

The meeting was attended by 8 parents plus stakeholders. The meeting was also attended by 2 local councillors who were there at the request of constituents.

Meeting Summary

It was agreed that the principle purpose of this meeting was make further progress with delivery of a baby memorial. It was noted guidance would be sought from the group on how that was best achieved.

It was agreed the principles of 'respect' and 'confidence' would be adopted as a means of supporting inclusive discussion.

A brief update was provided on the actions agreed at the previous meeting.

A draft set of terms of reference for the group was discussed. Recognising representation may require changing so that the group fully represented the views of parents, it was agreed the terms of reference should remain as a draft at this stage and that they should be discussed at a future meeting.

There was a broad discussion on the best way to take forward delivery of a memorial and it was argued this would ideally be done through a fully open and transparent process to include encouraging involvement from parents who had not previously come forward.

The consultation undertaken to date with parents was recognised as being helpful. However, the group felt more, and fuller engagement and consultation with parents was required.

The group felt that this further consultation should take the form of a fresh and fully inclusive engagement process.

Key points made in support of this position included:

- A feeling that 'officialdom' (Council, NHS, funeral directors, etc) had robbed parents of their baby's ashes and that it was important for parents to have a clear and transparent engagement process and feel in control of the creation of memorial dedicated to their babies.
- There was consensus that the engagement process could be as important as the memorial itself. There was a strong preference for a single memorial.
- Recognition that many parents are still grieving, and that specialist support may need to be offered as we engage. It was also recognised that while the council need to be seen to lead development of memorial proposals, others may be better placed to lead consultation with parents.

- Recognition of the need to maintain momentum and drive forward the development of proposals.

It was noted there was an option to create two memorials, the Angel (proposed for Townhill Park, Dunfermline) and a second memorial. An initial possible view was shared of how the Angel might look as proposed at Townhill Park. It was felt by the group if there was broad support for such an option, that would emerge from the consultation process.

Reflecting guidance from the group, it was acknowledged that it was Fife Council's responsibility to take ownership of creation of the baby memorial. It was agreed the Council would write to all parents inviting them to share their views on the proposed baby memorial.

Recognising the further pain that this process could cause to parents, the group requested that information links to bereavement support agencies should be given in the letter.

Next Steps

It was agreed the Council would:

- write to all parents
- create a web site in support of engagement and consultation
- develop an engagement and consultation plan for discussion at the next meeting of the group.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9 March 2020 at Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline