

# OBAN HOSPICE LTD

## DIRECTORS' REPORT 2021

### A. INTRODUCTION

2020 has been a particularly challenging year for many people and organisations, and Oban Hospice is no exception. It remains one of the leading charitable organisations in the area of Oban, Lorn and Islands.

In spite of restrictions around individuals meeting up, attending groups or functions and the lockdowns imposed by Government, the two workers from Oban Hospice, Peter and Lucy, together with volunteers have managed to maintain weekly contact with more than 50 people and their families over the last 12 months.

### B. LORN AND ISLANDS HOSPITAL

Liaison continues with the local hospital, still faced with budgetary and organisational challenges associated with being part of the local Health and Social Care Partnership. Ongoing liaison continues around the use of two inpatient beds and one relatives' room and the management of referrals between organisations. The NHS staff member who works at the Dove Centre for a small percentage of her time, ie a half day, has also kept in contact with people.

### C. THE DOVE CENTRE

Generally speaking, the Dove Centre has been unavailable for groups and individuals to meet up, due to the early, more severe Covid rules. Gradually, the Centre has adopted a position of re-opening in a phased manner. Therapists have also been under severe restrictions, together with volunteers. The use of technology has been developed locally, for instance Zoom and other technologies which have been introduced for groups of people to "meet up" from a safe distance.

Lucy, our worker in the community, has maintained contact with a range of people from a safe distance via the use of telephone and other technologies. However, Lucy has also made visits to a small number of people, whilst maintaining appropriate protocols and with consideration of risk procedures associated with safe distancing and lone working.

Contacts have been maintained with a range of therapists, volunteers and Board members throughout these difficult times associated with "lockdown" restrictions. A quarterly newsletter has been established to keep people up to date. Work has continued in developing a new befriending service (Cairdeàs) in association with our partner agency, Highland Hospice.

### D. FINANCE

Oban Hospice Ltd remains in a reasonably good financial position but our ability to raise funds with local activities has been severely impacted upon. We continue to receive a number of generous local donations, from both individuals and families. Also, the Friends of Oban Hospice raised funds up to June 2020 of £30,000 towards the running costs. It is worth noting at this stage, that for a number of reasons, the Friends of Oban Hospice, as a separate charity, (after 20 years of fundraising) have decided to wind up their activities. It is anticipated that a few members of the current "Friends" will be co-opted onto the existing Hospice Board which will take over the fundraising activities.

## E. HOSPICE BOARD

Kath McMahon is now a full member of the Board, having been voted in at the last AGM. Adrian Tully has been co-opted onto the Board and will be formally voted in at the next AGM scheduled to take place within the next 2/3 months.

A big thank you to all my Board colleagues, Peter, Lucy and Lindsay, volunteers and therapists together with the existing Friends members for their support over the past 12 months. This has been an exceptionally difficult time for everyone, particularly those people living alone.

## F. CONCLUSION

Prior to the Covid 19 crisis, Oban Hospice Ltd was consolidating its position locally. Thankfully, we are making plans to re-establish some initial activities at the Dove Centre, together with creating a befriending service. We are also planning to establish new fund-raising activities and build upon our limited experience of seeking grants/funding, eg Crerar Fund, and applying for specific grants associated with the Covid 19 crisis, eg Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund 2021.

A review of our aims and objectives is also taking place which will inevitably create a refined and purposeful focus for the next 3-5 years, making the most of our opportunities resulting from political, cultural and strategic developments.

David Entwistle

Chairperson  
Oban Hospice Ltd

28 May 2021