

**Notes from the Meeting of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Collaborative**

22 May 2006 at SHA Offices, Tonman House, St Albans

1. Those present were Carol Nolan, Philip Gibson, Susan Hollins, Eddie Turner, George Cobb, Geoff Cook
2. Apologies were received from Lynn Bassett, Elizabeth Bradley, Jane Hatton, Simon Manley-Cooper, Erica Tuxworth (SHA link)
3. Minimum Data Set: an open discussion took place firstly.
 - a. E&N Herts Trust – the chaplaincy Line Manager (Director of Nursing) doesn't want chaplains to collect data (filling in forms). However the team is currently considering 10 items of data to be collected. The 'significant visit' is to be defined.
 - b. WHHT – the MDS is still to be developed.
 - c. GC spoke of the good example of data collection and usage by the chaplaincy team at Addenbrookes Foundation Trust. The collection of data is both positive and negative.

There is also benefit in being able to communicate the service to other staff in this way, as well as keeping up with the rest of NHS practice

PG talked of the Chaplaincy guidelines (DH 2003) being sufficient to know what chaplaincy is and does, and questioned the value of collecting data asking whether it is simply 'change for change's sake. Geoff Cook agreed with this approach and thought that data collection would take him away from a patient centred approach to work. "Once we've lost the essence of being different then we run the risk of losing chaplaincy." SH referred Geoff to the material on spiritual healthcare and data produced by Wilf McSherry and other within the Nursing community.

In response GC said that data collection and usage was helpful in relation to any threat to chaplaincy posts etc. It is better to create the data set than to have one imposed.

Some uneasiness was expressed as to what the MDS might be used for by Managers and others in the future.

ET asked why chaplaincy cannot be accountable in the way other services are.

4. Baseline Questionnaire responses from the chaplaincies in the SHA were tabled and agreed that this would form a main item at the next meeting.
5. Local Issues –
 - a. Anxieties about the future of WHHT site services and reconfiguration while applauding the success of the Nursing and Midwifery service in the Trust
 - b. The Burns service currently on the Mount Vernon site is scheduled to be moved to the Royal Free Hospital by the end of the year.
 - c. Staff morale is low in relation to the future of Hemel Hempstead Hospital services
 - d. Hertfordshire Partnership Trust is reconfiguring the MH services. SH is to contact Roisin Fallon-Williams to enquire about this in relation to her previous meeting with RFW in relation to the provision of spiritual care.
 - e. SH enquired about chaplaincy in Ambulance Trusts following a discussion with Randall Moll of the St Albans Diocese Workplace Ministry scheme. RM has been trying to initiate a chaplaincy service for the Ambulance Trust through the diocesan scheme. Questions were raised about the appropriateness of such an initiative given the requirement for such services to meet current chaplaincy standards. SH will be in further contact with RM about this.
6. Steering Committee – it was agreed that this would consist of all members of the Collaborative rather than have a separate group
7. Next meeting – **29 September 2006 at 1230 at Tonman House.**