



Caring for the Spirit

The NHS Strategy for Spiritual Healthcare



An NHS Strategy for Chaplaincy and the Spiritual Healthcare Workforce

- “To enable individuals and groups in a healthcare setting to respond to spiritual and emotional need and to the experiences of life and death, illness and injury, in the context of a faith or belief system.”



A vision to be achieved by 2010

1. Using an Evidence Based system of Care.
2. Working as members of the Healthcare Professional Workforce.
3. Supporting Multi-faith working which respects all.
4. Demonstrating a Professional standing through education pathways.
5. Contributing to the leadership of healthcare services.
6. Making effective Links with community groups and faith groups local and national



1. An Evidence Based system of Care

Know why we do what we do.

- Record what we do.
- Stand back – an objective view.
- Become Research Aware – read journals.
- Involve in Research Practice – Audit & study.
- Document and exchange good practice.
- Reassess practice in the light of knowledge.



2. Work as Members of the Healthcare Professional Workforce

- Working as part of a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).
- Sharing the care.
- Sharing information.
- Respecting others' skills and gifts.
- Working amid a pluralistic network of care.
 - Chaplains are not the only fruit!



3. Supporting Multi-faith working which respects all

- Knowing who comes to your hospital. How?
- Establishing relationships with local faith groups.
- Identifying the needs of minority groups.
- Recognition of the pluralistic nature of our society.
- Recruiting and training spiritual health carers of all faiths and beliefs.



4. Demonstrating a Professional standing through education pathways.
 - Defining things a chaplain should know.
 - Participating in Annual Appraisal.
 - Sourcing theological and professional training.
 - Calling & vocation vs. Profession & training.
 - Recording our achievements.



5. Contributing to the leadership of healthcare services.

- Engaging positively with the NHS Agenda for healthcare.
- Bringing spiritual insight to the workplace
- Social issues of justice and equality
- Ethical issues, contributing to ethical committees.



6. Effective Links with community groups and faith groups local and national

- Recognition of the validity of all faiths.
- Respecting our own boundaries – brokers, agents or fellow team members?
- Converting our contact lists to working relationships.
- Forging and belonging to spiritual networks