

CARING FOR THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER 4 –MARCH 2005

Caring for the Spirit is the development strategy for the chaplaincy and spiritual healthcare workforce published in November 2003. The strategy proposes action to modernise spiritual healthcare practise, education and research in response to user requirements. The implementation plan reported here is designed to achieve improvement progressively until 2010.

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth newsletter about the implementation of *Caring for the Spirit*. You will find information in this issue about:

- Changes to the leadership of the strategy project
- What do lead chaplains spend their time doing?
- Progress report about the central allocation for chaplaincy
- Clarification about statutory regulation
- Progress with identifying a minimum dataset
- Progress with developing an educational framework for spiritual healthcare
- Communications within the world of chaplains
- Updates contact details for Lead Chaplains
- Publication of second foundation study on access to chaplaincy services
- Farewell to Barbara Walsh

SYSHA Head of National Workforce Projects

South Yorkshire SHA has appointed Mr Derek Thomson to the new post of Head of National Workforce Projects

and National Dental Unit. This role pulls together the three main national lead areas for which South Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority has responsibility: Dental Services, Chaplaincy and Orthoptics.

Derek will be based at Don Valley House, Sheffield and can be contacted on 0114 226 4463, or derek.thomson@wdconfed.nhs.uk

Talking of his new appointment, Derek said "I am very much looking forward to working with chaplains and other members of the spiritual healthcare workforce – this is important work for patients and staff in healthcare and we will wish to continue its development along the lines of the current strategy"

Membership of the strategy Champions Group

The strategy Champions Group has been strengthened by Chief Executive Mike Farrar's membership and they will now also be joined by the DH Chief Nursing Officer Ms Christine Beasley.

What are the Lead Chaplains doing ?

Although it is clear that the four Lead Chaplains are busily taking the implementation forward, what this means for individuals "on the ground" is often unclear. The workforce strategy has changed its locus from simply a national project to one with both a national and local emphasis, the latter being provided by the work of Lead Chaplains.

In bullet point terms, they are occupying themselves as follows:

- Setting up their local office within its region using information technology and personal assistant support wherever available.
- Sorting out a programme of work which both enables the work to be done but also enables time for reflection; participation in action learning; and taking a full part in Church, College, and family life.

- Preparing a map of the stakeholders in chaplaincies, faith communities and educational and other supportive bodies locally so that a view of the various health localities can be identified.
- Developing an understanding about the local healthcare, faith community and education communities and their priorities and issues which can be supportive of and supported by spiritual healthcare development.
- Maintaining a watching brief on the agreed elements of the strategy nationally including education, standard setting, authorisation developments and CPD.
- Considering what further personal preparation/ development would assist the implementation of Caring for the Spirit (change management processes; communication processes, information technology processes, training processes, organisational development processes).

As time moves on, aspects of these and other tasks will be fleshed out in the newsletter in more detail.

Review of the Central Allocation for Chaplaincy (Report from John James)

The project team recently discussed the report of the review of the Department of Health central allocation for chaplaincy undertaken recently by Mr John James. Mr James had updated the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy along the following lines:

- Three posts in support of chaplaincy administration had been agreed for the Free Churches, the Jewish community and the Muslim community.
- There was no agreement amongst the faith communities to the arrangements for a fourth post to be shared between them. Mr James was proposing that the funding reserved for this post be made accessible for bids from the other faith communities and the Council itself.
- A special training event was to be held to assist members in formulating applications for grant aid under Section 64
- The proposal to devolve funding had been focused on agreeing with South Yorkshire SHA that they should manage the funding stream for the central allocation.

Although this progress was welcomed, it was noted there

was still concern about the inequity of funding proposals and the failure to suggest ways to assist the Group itself. The report's implementation by SYSHA might be an opportunity for changes in due course.

Statutory Regulation of Healthcare Chaplaincy

The project team has discussed that section of the James report which says "The Department has made clear that it does not support the(se) aspirations" (to become a profession registered under the Council for Healthcare Professions) (paragraph 3.7).

The Department's policy was originally set out in a letter dated 1st March 2004 from MS(H) office which said "the view of this Department, endorsed by Ministers, is that statutory regulation is neither necessary nor desirable for healthcare chaplains". The letter suggested that concerns could be met by a voluntary system and concluded "I strongly encourage you to work jointly with these partners in taking these developments forward".

The project team noted that, although this policy was publicised in 2004, there were still instances of chaplains believing that their profession would be regulated statutorily i.e. in the same way as for the allied health professions. This was not the case.

The Department of Health had confirmed that hospital chaplains were not one of the groups that should go forward for regulation by the Health Professions Council. The Department took the view that healthcare chaplains were not a healthcare profession in the same way as other groups and it would not be appropriate to regulate them via HPC.

Confusion was still present and could be derived from the loose wording about "statutory/ professional" and "regulation/ registration". The project team agreed that they would use "statutory regulation" to encompass the registration afforded by HPC and "informal registration" for anything else.

Report of the Listening Exercise on a Minimum Dataset for Spiritual Healthcare

The project team received a report of the listening exercise on a minimum dataset for spiritual healthcare. Action was proposed to clarify definitions of spiritual, pastoral and religious care, and also to identify and set a minimum dataset.

The chaplaincy team at the North Bristol NHS Trust have agreed to assist with the clarification of definitions and a further note for discussion will be published in due course.

The identification of a minimum dataset remains challenging because of the variety of involvements with data gathering and analysis evident within chaplaincy. The minimum dataset is intended to be practicable for a single-handed chaplain without any IT support. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a separate statement about data requirements should be issued under cover of a letter explaining more of the justification for this effort.

Report on the Study Day on the Educational Framework for Spiritual Healthcare

The study day facilitated by NHSU on behalf of SYWDC had been very successful and notes would be circulated in due course. Considerable work was now required to collate the statement of curriculum for spiritual healthcare and the project team is expecting to receive a further report in May.

Communications within the world of chaplains

At the commencement of South Yorkshire's involvement with the spiritual healthcare workforce, we established a SmartGroup for NHS chaplaincy to assist communication.

SmartGroups are designed to help people to share information. Group members can email the Group and

receive replies at no cost and with full control over where, when and how they use the service. Do please consider joining this Group.

The Group's home page is:

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/nhschaplaincy>

Recent requests for information have included "Chaplaincy Audit", "Spiritual Space/Multi-Faith Room" and "Seeking to collate prayers for the dying". From this site you can also find out about the latest calendar events, votes, messages, photos and other Group information. The Group's email address is: nhschaplaincy@smartgroups.com

If you send an email to the Group, it is distributed to all the Group members. If you just want to send mail to the Group manager, the email address is: nhschaplaincy-owner@smartgroups.com

To leave the Group, either use the Group's home page, or send a blank email message to: nhschaplaincy-unsubscribe@smartgroups.com

**Contact details updated for
lead chaplains**

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**Report on the Review of
Strategy Milestones**

The project team reviewed progress with meeting the strategy milestones following the first 18 months of implementation. The agreed changes to milestones will be incorporated in a revised version of the implementation report to be published in April.

**PPI Foundation study on
access to chaplaincy
services - UK and NZ
Survey Results**

The report of this second study had been finalised and will be circulated to NHS Trusts.

The project team also supported the proposal that the authors publicise their findings more generally possibly in professional journals.

Ms Barbara Walsh

Ms Barbara Walsh leaves South Yorkshire NHS at the end of March. The project team paid tribute to her leadership of the strategy project and thanked her for all her hard work and support. The team wished her well for the future.

Caring for the Spirit Project
Team – March 2005