

CARING FOR THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER 5 – OCTOBER 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. Implementation of this strategy is designed to achieve improvement progressively until 2010.

Welcome

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

- Chaplaincy Collaboratives
- Progress report for the Workforce Commissioning Group
- Defining a minimum data set for spiritual healthcare
- Further advice about models of practice and service
- A strategy for continuing professional development in spiritual healthcare
- The Knowledge and Skills in Spiritual Healthcare (V.3)
- The SACH/ AHPCC initiative
- Articles in Nursing Management - October

Chaplaincy Collaboratives

Following the endorsement by SHAs of the guidance note about chaplaincy collaboratives (included on the website), SHAs and

Lead Chaplains are now beginning to convene the initial meetings of Collaboratives. It is hoped that these meetings will all have been convened by the end of March.

A future issue of the newsletter will be devoted to reporting progress across the Country in more detail.

Progress report for the Workforce Commissioning Group

Susan Hollins made a presentation to the Workforce Commissioning Group in June on progress with the implementation of the *Caring for the Spirit* project. A further more detailed presentation will be made to the National Workforce Group in November when resourcing for the project will be reviewed.

Defining a minimum data set for Spiritual Healthcare

Following the consultation exercise in 2004, the

project board has now finalised its views on a minimum data set for spiritual healthcare. The Guidance Note about this will be issued in late October.

The project board has taken the view that defining the data set starts with a minimum and develops over time into a data set which is more rounded and representative of what chaplains do. There will be opportunities to influence these changes in future discussions on this topic.

Colleagues might also like to know that, in discussion with Officials of the Department of Health, it had been agreed that the appropriate officer at the Information Authority would be identified in order to take forward discussions about a national view of chaplaincy data.

Further advice about models of practice and service

The project board is currently finalising its advice about models of practice and service. The Guidance Note about this will be issued in November.

A strategy for continuing professional development in spiritual healthcare

The working party has drafted a strategy for continuing professional development in spiritual healthcare which is being finalised currently. The strategy will be issued for consultation through a listening exercise between November and January 2006.

The Knowledge and Skills in Spiritual Healthcare (V.3)

The project board has endorsed the latest version (V.3) of the Knowledge and Skills in Spiritual Healthcare and this is now available on the website.

The next actions are to test this with Higher Education Institutions to assess how best it can enable the development of accredited educational

provision in spiritual healthcare. This will take about six months and a further report will be made to the project board in July 2006

The SACH/ AHPCC initiative

In October 2004, SACH and AHPCC launched an initiative designed to enable all bodies with an interest in healthcare chaplaincy to work together for the good of healthcare chaplaincy. Further more recent discussions have concluded in an exchange of letters which are included on the website.

Articles in Nursing Management – October 2005

The October edition of this Journal includes several articles written by chaplains about spiritual care. The guest editorial is written by the Minister for Health.

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>

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

Caring for the Spirit Project Team –October 2005