

## **CARING FOR THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER 6 – MAY 2006**

*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 sixth newsletter about the implementation of *Caring for the Spirit* NHS Project.

You will find information in this issue about:

- Guidance Note on models
- Progress with chaplaincy collaboratives
- National Workforce Group
- Confidentiality/ DPA/ IT
- CPD strategy
- Educational Framework for chaplains
- New work stream on structural issues in chaplaincy provision
- Commissioning a review of research
- Panel of national assessors

### **New Guidance Note on Models**

Caring for the Spirit has published its latest resource for chaplains: a Guidance Note on Models of Service and Practice.

The Note is intended to prompt chaplains to reflect critically on their own approach and raise awareness of a range of other models.

Models are important because they help us explain what we do and why we do it. *Service models* help us to agree with users and managers about the role of chaplaincy and about priorities in what it delivers. *Practice models* provide a framework for evaluating interventions and so contribute to an evidence-based approach. They also offer a language for dialogue with colleagues in the multi-disciplinary team.

The Guidance Note, '*A Review of Some Theoretical Models of Healthcare Chaplaincy Service and Practice*,' prepared by Mark Folland, is available on the SYSHA website. A copy is attached to this newsletter.

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## **Collaboratives**

### ***Development of chaplaincy collaboratives***

The establishment of Chaplaincy Collaboratives in each of the (now outgoing) SHAs is a major task for the Strategy at present. So far Collaboratives have been launched in most of the SHAs, with the exception of some areas in the South West and the North West. Second meetings have also been taking place following the launches in the first part of this year.

Collaboratives have a strategic function and are expected to benefit from the formal link with each SHA in relation to workforce issues, as well as profiling the spiritual healthcare agenda to a wider network of healthcare professionals and institutions. As the new SHAs come into existence it is expected that the formal links will remain, even if the specific link person may change. As this initiative gains in momentum initial reserve about the benefits of working together in this way is fading, and commitment is increasing, particularly in the light of the significant association with the SHA.

While the Collaboratives will provide chaplains with a means of networking with other chaplains alongside existing networks of CHCC and informal groupings, their main emphasis is task-orientated in order to support the development of the chaplaincy workforce. Currently attention is being paid to the development and use of data systems as these are a crucial component in evidencing the contribution of chaplains to care.

### ***Web page support***

SYSHA is working to make web space available to emerging Collaboratives. This should enable:

- sharing of good practice
- crossover of information between collaboratives
- resourcing of other healthcare staff.

### ***Foundation Trusts***

Some Foundation Trusts are apparently discouraging their chaplains from engagement in 'external' structures. We suggest that Collaboratives are 'sold' as an opportunity to enhance professional practice – and thereby improve the quality of patient and staff care.

### ***Leadership of Collaboratives post-October 07***

The leadership of Collaboratives will remain with Lead Chaplains until October 2007, subject to local arrangements they and colleagues make.

Between now and this date it is important that Collaboratives work towards a self-supporting means of leadership. It is envisaged that the SHA Lead and the Chair of the Collaborative will work closely together and maintain links with the Caring for the Spirit Project Group.

## ***National Workstreams***

### ***A strategy for continuing professional development in healthcare chaplaincy***

A working party of chaplains has been developing a strategy for CPD which draws on Caring for the Spirit, the Health Professions Council's consultation document on CPD, and the KSF Development Review Guidance.

The working party agreed changes to the strategy as a result of the recent listening exercise. The final version is attached to this note and is available on the SYSHA chaplaincy website.

A meeting has been planned for September with representatives of the Chaplaincy Academic and Accreditation Board to clarify areas of complementarity, areas of overlap and areas of disagreement with the work they have undertaken.

### ***Educational Framework – next steps***

The project group has approached Cardiff University to assist with the work needed to turn the statement of knowledge and skills in spiritual healthcare into a curriculum of what chaplains need to know.

### ***Confidentiality/ DPA/ IT workstream***

Susan Hollins is leading this workstream which is designed to tackle some of the issues around informed consent and the PAS/ IT system. She has met with Department of Health colleagues and is preparing a project brief for consideration by the senior management team. Subject to agreement to this and to the project initiation document (PID), more detailed work is likely to start in July.

### ***New project workstream on structural issues in chaplaincy provision***

The project group has approved the development of a new workstream on structural issues in chaplaincy provision with a remit "to review the disposition of chaplaincy - spiritual care in the light of the current Government proposals for care within a community setting and to make proposals". This work stream will be led by Revd Kevin Skippon, Chaplaincy Services Manager, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## ***Etc...***

### ***Project report to the National Workforce Group***

The *Caring for the Spirit* NHS project is funded through a levy on SHAs renewable annually. We have recently completed discussions with the NWG about finance to 2007. The result has been agreement to an annual levy 2006/07 and 2007/08. This would enable the work of Lead Chaplains to be completed in October 2007 as planned.

NWG undertakes regular reviews of progress with the project group and that planned for the autumn 2006 is likely to consider the future of the project beyond 2007/08. The project group considered that this agreement was a significant achievement at a time of financial and organisational turbulence within the NHS.

### ***Review of the work of the panel of national assessors***

SYSHA has agreed with the Department of Health that responsibility for leading this work should pass to SYSHA.

### ***Commissioning a review of the research***

The project group has issued an invitation to seven chaplaincy centres for a review of the research on the efficacy of healthcare chaplaincy. A small financial allocation has been made for this work which is expected to take six months.

The Rev Preb Peter Speck had agreed to lead the evaluation of tenders working with a small group of chaplaincy research colleagues. The tenders are due back in early June and evaluation should be completed by mid-July.

The outcome of this work will include a review of the existing research on a topic. It will describe and evaluate the contribution of different research measures, techniques and designs used in this area and, in addition, it will identify future priorities for research and provide outline proposal(s).