



MULTI-FAITH GROUP FOR HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY

15th September 2010

Present:

Mr Manhar Mehta (In the Chair)	
Imam Abdul Mumin Chowdhury	Revd Nigel Goodfellow
Revd Debbie Hodge	Hon Barney Leith
Mr Sital Singh Maan	Mr Ron Maddox
Mr Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin	Mr Keith Munnings
Mr Kishor Ruparelia	Rabbi Meir Salasnik
Pandit Madhu Shastri	Mr Sue Soloway
Mrs Deborah Wheeler	

In attendance: Mr Tim Battle

32/10 Welcome to new members and visitors

The Chairman welcomed Imam Abdul Mumin Chowdhury representing the Muslim community to his first meeting.

33/10 Election of Chief Officer MFGHC (ref min 27/10)

The Council welcomed with acclamation the election of Revd Debbie Hodge as Chief Officer MFGHC.

34/10 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kobad Avari, Revd Jennifer Bell, Ervad Rustam Bhedwar, Imam Yunus Dudhwala, Revd Andy Edmeads, Mr Peter Hulme, Revd Fr Paul Mason, Mr Harmint Singh, Mr Jayman Mehta, Revd Mark Stobert and Rt. Revd Tom Williams.

35/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2010 were agreed subject to amendments for Ms Soloway and clarification that Rt. Revd Tom Williams had been present.

36/10 Central allocation for hospital chaplaincy (ref min 21/10)

The Vice Chairman indicated that he had had confirmation that the 2010 funding was shortly to be distributed. This did not detract from the need for certainty in the longer term and the Chairman confirmed that he was to request a meeting with Ministers about the funding of the MFGHC after the meeting. He also intended to raise other issues including the Government's recent indication about the importance of faith and the need for updated guidance on healthcare chaplaincy.

37/10 UK Board for Healthcare Chaplaincy (ref min 22/10)

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Revd Mark Fisher, the Chairman of the Churches Committee for Hospital Chaplaincy, had convened a meeting in July seeking to bring MFGHC and UKBHC into partnership working. During that meeting, the Chairman had made an offer of joint working on the formation of an independent regulatory body for healthcare chaplains, and this offer had been confirmed in writing on 21st July and circulated to Council members for information.

The Executive Committee had established 6th September as the date by which a response could be expected. No response had been received by that date and the intention had been that the project work would therefore continue as originally planned. Subsequently, Revd Mark Fisher had requested that the MFGHC give more time and the President AHPCC had written also suggesting that UKBHC needed more time to consider this issue. The President's letter had been circulated for discussion

In discussion, members made the following main points:

- The MFGHC proposals for an independent regulatory body did not exclude UKBHC as was implied in some correspondence. MFGHC's proposals were for the inclusion of all stakeholders including UKBHC.
- MFGHC did not see their project as a "race" between themselves and others. MFGHC intended to develop proposals which matched best regulatory practice and this was achievable within the timescale of the project.
- Although the concept of a competitive race was not accepted, nevertheless there was pressure to make progress and complete proposals so that regulation could be seen to be applied and professional status for healthcare chaplains made more certain.
- Some concern was expressed that UKBHC needed so much time to determine its view on this issue when their comments on other issues had been made promptly and this proposal had seemed to be welcomed by all those at the meeting in July.

After further discussion, Council agreed to wait until their January 2011 meeting for a response from UKBHC and to put on hold further unilateral action within their project. It was agreed that this be given wide publicity in the MFGHC Bulletin.

38/10 Standards for healthcare chaplaincy provision (ref min 25/10)

The Council noted that the revised standards would be published in booklet form during the autumn.

In respect to other action, Tim Battle reported that the discussion about generic chaplaincy was being taken forward in the Reference Group for the Regulation Project. He indicated that no response had been received from the Department of Health about a merger of the two assessor panels; the suggested further restriction of access by chaplains to patient information; and publication of the draft guidance on commissioning healthcare chaplaincy.

39/10 Authorisation Bodies and the discussion with NHS Authorities over progress with chaplaincy development (ref min 26/10)

The Council noted that a list of the Authorisation Bodies together with a short digest of these discussions would be published in booklet form during the autumn. It was also intended that there should be a formal launch of the Authorisation Bodies in the Spring to which Ministers would be invited.

40/10 The Reference Group for the Authorisation and Regulation Project (ref min 28/10)

It was noted that the report of the first meeting of the Reference Group in July was available on the website.

41/10 Report of the Honorary Officers – September 2010

Items of correspondence concerned with the Chairman's invitation to talk about Jainism at the Department of Health; comments on the Metropolitan Police's document on responses to those with a mental illness; the Vice-Chairman's invitation to comment on the Department of Health's end of life strategy for Last Offices; and the Administrator's summary comments for response to the Government's policy on GP commissioning were reported.

Items for information concerning the publication of their chaplaincy leaflet by the Hindu community; correspondence about graduands of the Interfaith Seminary; and proposals for a new trawl for multi-faith resources were reported.

42/10 Finance Report – September 2010

The Honorary Treasurer presented his report for the period to 6th August 2010. This showed expenditure of £22,815 and balances in current account of £9,805 and in deposit of £29,940.

It was agreed that future reports should show the Council's core activities separately to those on projects and that credit should be given to those providing services in kind of which the Church of England's generous provision of office facilities was an example. It was also agreed that the MFGHC should use the April/March year for their accounts in line with the NHS.

The Council expressed its thanks to Keith Munnings for this work.

43/10 Planning for 2011-2013

The Council received presentations from Debbie Hodge (capabilities and competences consultation), Barney Leith (communications and the new media), Keith Munnings (educational curricula and accreditation), Tim Battle (the authorisation and regulation project – next steps) and Manhar Mehta (future activities and relationships with other bodies).

During discussion, the following outline work programme was agreed:

2010

- Finalise the revision of the standards of NHS chaplaincy provision and publish in booklet form.
- Finalise the arrangements for publicising the new Authorisation Bodies through a leaflet to NHS Bodies incorporating the discussions about progress with multi-faith chaplaincy.
- Arrange to see Ministers at Department of Health about current concerns – future of the central allocation for healthcare chaplaincy; current underpinning of healthcare chaplaincy by faith and religion; arrangements for new Authorisation Bodies; and preparation for new healthcare chaplaincy policy/ guidance.
- Review the MFGHC education framework in light of proposals for accreditation of courses via the Open College Network and the proposed adoption of capabilities and competencies published by the South East Coast Chaplaincy Collaborative.

2011

- Arrange launch of new Authorisation Bodies (spring)
- Make progress with Regulation project – decision on joint work with UKBHC (January); review of delegation proposals for fitness to practise with Authorisation Bodies (spring/summer); revise and consult on continuing professional development policy (summer); prepare governance arrangements for regulatory body (autumn).
- Consider arrangements for an independent survey of chaplains about what they offer to users (spring) and a survey of NHS Bodies about compliance with Equalities legislation (summer)
- Revise MFGHC communications in line with best practice (summer)
- Revise the MFGHC constitution to take account of changes/ progress (autumn)

2012

- Submit final proposals for chaplaincy regulation (spring)
- Audit standards on NHS chaplaincy provision (Summer)
- Prepare advice and submit proposals to Department of Health for new chaplaincy policy/guidance (autumn)

44/10 Election of Honorary Officers 2011-12

The Chairman noted that elections would shortly be held for new Honorary Officers 2011-12. He thanked colleagues for the support he had received during his term of office which was due to end in December.

45/10 Dates of future meetings

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 13th January 2011 and subsequently on Wednesday 11th May and Tuesday 20th September. Meetings would be in London with the Committees in the afternoon.