



**THE MULTI-FAITH GROUP FOR
HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY**

BIENNIAL REVIEW 2005 – 2006

March 2007

CONTENTS

Welcome	3
The work of the Multi-Faith Group in 2005-2006	
The work of the Council	4
The work of the Education Committee	5
The work of the Standards Committee	6
Annex	
Membership of the Multi-Faith Group (December 2006)	7

The Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy was established in 2002 in order to advance multi-faith healthcare chaplaincy in England and Wales.

The Multi-Faith Group seeks to facilitate a common understanding and support for healthcare chaplaincy amongst faith groups, chaplaincy bodies and healthcare organisations. It provides a means of consultation between the Faiths about healthcare chaplaincy and works in co-operation with healthcare and chaplaincy organisations.

WELCOME

Welcome to the second biennial review of the work of the Multi-faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy. This review should have been introduced by our Chairman, Rabbi Martin van den Bergh but he has taken up his new post as Rabbi to one of the communities in Hong Kong. It therefore falls to me to summarise the Group's work and also to pay tribute to Martin's contribution.

Rabbi Martin van den Bergh has a long association with healthcare chaplaincy through his time as Chief Officer to the Jewish Visitation Committee. To his work as our second Chairman, he brought experience, wisdom and a drive for improvement. Our progress reported here has been significantly shaped by him and we are grateful for his leadership and support.

During 2005, Londoners were subject to the horrific events of July 7th when explosions caused death and injury to travellers. Several members of the Multi-Faith Group were personally involved in these incidents as chaplains and we were all deeply disturbed by these incidents. The Group's statement issued at the time requested prayers for peace and support for the victims of violence and these concerns continue to guide us.

The achievements recorded in this review reflect the deep and active involvement of many people in the work of healthcare chaplaincy to whom the Group is grateful.

Sital Singh Maan
Acting Chair

The work which is done by members of the Multi-Faith Group is supported by many unsung heroes in the NHS, in the Department of Health and in healthcare and chaplaincy. Their support is crucial to our success and I pay tribute to it here. The administration of the Group's work has rested on the broad shoulders of Tim Battle and Mary Ingledew in Church House and with Fred Coutts for the Group's website at www.mfghc.com. To them also go grateful thanks.

Edward Lewis
Chief Officer

THE WORK OF THE MULTI-FAITH GROUP IN 2005-2006

The work of Council

The Council supported and endorsed the work done by its Committees and has been grateful for the leadership of Co-Chairs and for the contribution of members. The Council welcomed the publication of **standards for healthcare chaplaincy** which is reported in detail by the Standards Committee. The Council also welcomed the availability of the **resources for multi-faith chaplaincy** which is reported by the Education Committee. These are substantial gains for healthcare chaplaincy of which the Multi-Faith Group can be proud.

Much of the work of the Council is focused on supporting faith communities in developing their own chaplaincy capacity. In this regard, Council was pleased to be able to set out the **characteristics of the authorisation process** which faith communities will need to install so as to develop their own oversight of this activity. At the same time, Council has made it clear that it will only handle **issues of common interest** to the majority of faith communities. Council will try not to be involved with issues of concern which could be better handled within a faith community.

During the course of this review, the Council has considered several aspects of financial strategy. **The James Review** of the Department of Health central allocation of finance for NHS chaplaincy was welcomed at its initiation but was not so well received on publication. Whilst welcoming the additional allocation for senior staff posts, the remaining (and majority) faith communities remain under pressure and with little capacity to improve their income.

It was ironic therefore that the subsequent seminar on applying for grant aid under section 64 lead to three unsuccessful applications. More success was achieved with a small **grant from the Community Development Foundation** of £5000 for education and training. This has been well used within the Jain and the Sikh communities.

The Council held a **review conference** in June 2005 in order to consider what progress had been made with the introduction of multi-faith chaplaincy and to consider what additional efforts were needed. There were several helpful presentations on progress during the morning and lively and informed discussions during the afternoon. The Council is grateful for South Yorkshire SHA for sponsoring the costs of the Conference and to the Guy's/ St Thomas' NHS Trust for hosting the event.

Arising from the June 2005 conference was a proposed work programme covering major issues in chaplaincy, resources, education and communications. Arising from consideration of this listing, the Council agreed that their **work priorities for the next period** were the development of authorisation processes; providing advice on quality standards; obtaining additional resources; developing foundation training for chaplains; and sharing communications and databases.

Several efforts have been made to strengthen **relations between the various chaplaincy bodies**. Apart from the synergy this would achieve, the Council is conscious that chaplaincy is a small professional grouping within the NHS and that there is strength in unity.

During the period covered by this review, three significant initiatives have been launched to develop partnership working including South Yorkshire WDC's proposal for leadership in the topics associated with personal and professional development; the Multi-Faith Group's supporting of the proposals for chaplaincy leadership suggested by the Churches joint training office in the Mirfield Report; and the Chair's personal initiative to gather the main individuals together to air their differences. For a variety of reasons, these initiatives have failed.

The decision of the Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to make its chaplaincy workforce redundant as a cost saving measure in summer 2006 was a brisk reminder of the vulnerability of chaplaincy in the modern NHS. Curiously, the major factor in halting this action was the public statements issued by the Bishop of Worcester who defended chaplaincy loudly and effectively. Despite the obvious need for unity in the face of this challenge, it has not been possible for joint working to be the modus operandi between all the chaplaincy bodies.

The work of the Education Committee

The Minister of Health launched the Multi-Faith Group's **database of resources for multi-faith chaplaincy** at an event hosted by the Doncaster mental health NHS Trust in January 2005. The compilation of this database by the Education Committee had been supported by chaplaincies across the UK which had contributed of their knowledge and experience to this database. The Vice-Chair paid tribute to their contribution and the Minister acknowledged the valuable work done by all chaplains in supporting patients and staff in the NHS. The Council is grateful for the support given to this event by South Yorkshire SHA staff.

The Education Committee has accepted the **educational framework** developed by the *Caring for the Spirit* NHS Project with the NHS University as the basis for its work on training and education. Although the framework is sparse it provides a forward look for chaplaincy training and for the Committee's proposals to concentrate on introductory training.

During the early part of 2005, the Education Committee expressed its support for **chaplainship collaboratives** as the main development for a for local chaplaincy development.

The work of the Standards Committee

The publication of the Government's standards for the NHS prompted the Standards Committee to hasten the work it was undertaking on **chaplainship quality standards**. The Standards Committee undertook a listening exercise on its draft standards with chaplaincies in Spring 2006 and completed a robust version of the standards for discussion with the NHS.

The second-stage listening exercise planned for NHS Bodies in mid-2006 was postponed because of the management load on NHS managers from restructuring and the task of managing financial targets. Subsequently, the events in Worcester where the Acute Trust sought to outsource its total chaplaincy team suggested to the Committee that further guidance would be helpful. As a result, the draft standards were published in December 2006.

Prior to publishing its quality standards, the Committee had considered what role it should have in efforts towards **maintaining standards** if that was raised with the Committee. In discussion, the Committee agreed a process whereby it would refer complaints to the NHS Trust for consideration and, if that was not successful, to the Strategic Health Authority as a second stage. If no resolution was reached between the correspondent and the NHS Body, the Committee agreed to publicise this issue as appropriate. This process was endorsed by Council in May 2005.

The Committee endorsed an **occupational/vocational standard for research** prepared by the Revd Preb. Peter Speck for the *Caring for the Spirit* NHS Project. This standards has been added to those included on the MFGHC website.

ANNEX

Membership of the Multi-Faith Group at December 2006

Name	Sponsoring faith community/ organisation
Mr Kobad Avari	Zoroastrian
Ervad Rustam Bhedwar	Zoroastrian
Revd George Cobb	Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains
Mrs Linda Coulter	Bahá'í
Mr Bimal Krsna das	Hindu
Revd Bob Evans	Free Churches
Mr Simon Goulden	Jewish
Revd Debbie Hodge	Free Churches
The Hon Barney Leith	Bahá'í
Revd Edward Lewis – Chief Officer	Anglican
Mr Sital Singh Maan – Chair	Sikh
Mr Ron Maddox	Buddhist
Mr Baldev Singh Mawi	Sikh
Mr Manhar Mehta - Vice-Chair	Jain
Mr Jayman Mehta	Jain
Revd Louise Morrison	Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains
Mr Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin	Muslim
Mr Keith Munnings	Buddhist
HM Shafique Rahman	Muslim
Mr Kishor Ruparelia	Hindu
Rabbi Meir Salasnik	Jewish
Revd Preb. Peter Speck	Anglican
Revd Fr Peter Scott	Roman Catholic
Revd Chris Swift	College of Health Care Chaplains
Mr Derek Thomson	South Yorkshire SHA
Rt. Revd Tom Williams	Roman Catholic