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MFGHC Project on Authorisation and Regulation

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16th February 2010

Dear Chaplain

MFGHC Project on Authorisation and Regulation: Consultation on common standards for healthcare chaplains

I attach a draft statement of common standards for healthcare chaplains on which I should be grateful for your views by 5th May. I attach a form which I hope will help you focus your comments. Please can these be returned to Tim Battle at the PO Box above or by email to project.officer@mfghc.com

The Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy is an advisory body to the Department of Health. We comprise representatives of the nine major world faiths and representatives of the chaplaincy bodies operating in England. Our origins are in the working party established in 1998 by the Secretary of State to advise on the development of multi-faith chaplaincy and which drafted the current policy guidance. Further information about our work is available at www.mfghc.com.

The MFGHC's project on authorisation and regulation is funded by a three-year grant from the Department of Health. The project completes and publicises the arrangements for authorisation of chaplains in the major world faiths and also prepares the ground for the creation of a regulator for healthcare chaplains post-2012. The MFGHC's approach to regulation is distinct from that being taken by the chaplaincy membership bodies because of the emphasis it places on healthcare chaplaincy being rooted primarily in the faith communities from which it draws its life, its purpose and its value.

The creation of a regulatory body for healthcare chaplains will enable their work to be recognised by the NHS as that of healthcare professionals. In turn, such recognition would enable chaplains to offer and provide spiritual healthcare alongside other members of the clinical team in ways which will facilitate better outcomes for patients, staff and other users.

The Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy

There are several key elements to regulation including maintenance of a register of title holders, entrance to which is controlled according to agreed criteria. These criteria include educational attainments; ability to deliver an agreed skill set to agreed standards; a commitment to maintain skills and knowledge; and conformity with a code of practice for members of the register. This consultation covers the common standards and the code of practice only. Other elements will be the subject of consultation later in 2010.

Please will you comment on the attached papers to whatever degree you feel able. I look forward to receiving comments by the end of April.

Yours sincerely

Manhar Mehta

Mr Manhar Mehta
Chair

Distribution: Healthcare chaplains in England
Chaplaincy Bodies operating in England

CONSULTATION ON COMMON STANDARDS FOR HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINS

COMMENT FORM

Name

Job title

Contact email

Contact telephone

Comments on (page 1) The Statement of common standards for Healthcare Chaplains

Q1 How clear and helpful was the overall statement?

Q2 Do you have views about the proposed division of the register into three sections to accommodate chaplains, chaplaincy volunteers and chaplaincy students separately?

Q3 Do you know of other sources of advice we should consider?

Comments on (pages 2-4) Common standards for healthcare chaplains

Q4 In what ways do you consider we should change the qualifications for joining the register of healthcare chaplains?

Q5 In what ways do you consider we should change the outcomes in relation to the NHS? In what way

Q6 In what ways do you consider we should change the outcomes in relation to spiritual and pastoral care?

Q7 In what ways do you consider we should change the outcomes in relation to practicing chaplaincy as a healthcare professional?

Q8 In what ways do you consider we should change the outcomes in relation to management appreciation?

Q9 In what ways do you consider we should change the requirements for the maintenance of registration?

Comments on (pages 5-10) Code of practice for healthcare chaplains

Q10 How clear and helpful was the introduction?

Q11 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about relationships with patients and service users?

Q12 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about relationships with students and those whom they teach?

Q13 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about relationships with the Faith Community?

Q14 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about relationships with other professionals and their community?

Q15 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about relationships with colleagues?

Q16 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about chaplains and advertising?

Q17 In what ways do you consider we should change the statements about chaplains and research?

Q18 Are there other issues we should consider/ clarify?

Thank you for commenting on these common standards. Please now return this form either by post to PO Box 2261, Salisbury, SP3 6WE or by email to project.officer@mfghc.com