

Moving from Authorisation to Regulation

- Background
- Progress to date
- Elements of regulatory practice
- The Project Plan
- Years 1, 2, 3 in more detail
- Conclusions
- Questions

Background

- Chaplains' need for status as healthcare professionals
 - Where to visit/ access to patient records
 - Inclusion in MDTs
 - Appropriate recognition for spiritual healthcare
- NHS' need to assure safe clinical practice
 - Bristol cardiac cases
 - Dr Shipman
 - Reform of statutory regulation excludes chaplaincy

Progress to date

- Late 90s Chaplains' membership bodies start work on "professional registration"
- 2000 Shipman Enquiry established
- 2005 Review into the regulation of healthcare professionals
- 2007 Trust, Assurance and Safety White Paper
- 2007 Reform of pharmacy regulation
- 2008 UKBHC seeks to combine regulator with regulated

Elements of regulatory practice

- Deciding what is the profession of healthcare chaplaincy and agreeing which people can say that they are “healthcare chaplains”
 - Establishing how they should behave (Code of conduct)
 - Agreeing what training they need (Educational pathways)
 - Helping them keep up to date (Continuing Professional Development)
 - Setting up arrangements to monitor them (Fitness to practice)
- Maintaining a register of chaplains who conform to these standards/ attributes

The Project Plan

- Three years
- Executive Committee as Project Board
- Reference Group for discussion of issues (to be chaired by Dr Geoff Harris, Chair, NHS South Central)
- Engaging and interacting with chaplains, the NHS and the Faith Communities
- Leading to establishment of MFGHC as voluntary regulator and chaplains as healthcare professionals

Year 1

■ Actions

- Finalise project plan
- Convene reference group
- Stakeholder meetings on individual issues

■ Outputs

- Publicise agreed authorisation arrangements
- Stakeholder commitment clarified

Year 2

■ Actions

- Issues of faith community concern identified and under discussion
- Identify education providers and commence meetings re education pathways and CPD
- Draft code of conduct for consultation
- Draft education standard and CPD for consultation

■ Outputs

- Code of conduct
- Education pathways clarified

Year 3

■ Actions

- Determine governance arrangements for MFGHC
- Draft fitness to practice arrangements for consultation
- Draft registration form for consultation
- Recruit lay members for Trustee Board

■ Outputs

- CPD strategy
- Fitness to Practice arrangements
- Registration form
- MFGHC as charity

Conclusions

- Despite detailed project planning, the unforeseen will still occur
- Involving so many people over so long means that the programme will need regular review
- The end-point is one sought by chaplains and by the NHS and Faith Communities
- Chaplaincy users will be reassured that chaplaincy is a recognised healthcare profession.

Questions?