

**REPORT OF THE PROJECT BOARD
For the Authorisation and Regulation Project
January 2010**

Financial arrangements

1. Keith Munnings, Honorary Treasurer, and Tim Battle have completed a hand-over of finance responsibilities for the Council's work which are now wholly with Mr Munnings.

Project plan

2. As presaged as likely in September, it has been found necessary to postpone the meetings with NHS Bodies about authorisation arrangements into 2010. These are now envisaged for May and will include progress on issues other than regulation of chaplaincy.
3. The Project Board reviewed the work and the consultation programmes in light of the meeting with UKBHC and with the Department of Health. The latter indicated support for some consolidation of existing work to take advantage of the lull in expectation of the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Publicity for the timetable was included in the recent MFGHC Bulletin 19 but is set out below for ease of reference.

Code of conduct	Standards	Feb – Apr 2010
Fitness to Practise procedures	Standards	Jun – Aug 2010
Statement of Educational syllabus and pathways	Education	Oct – Dec 2010
Standards for Continuing Professional Development	Education and Standards	During 2011
Final proposals for chaplaincy regulation	Project Board	During 2011

4. The consultation over fitness to practice procedures (June to August) will be predominantly with faith communities because of their involvement in determining faith issues.

Faith, Religion and Beliefs

5. The Project Board has also taken note of the statement made by the Executive Committee in relation to Faith, Religion and Belief and will work in support of these three expressions:
 - Religious faith is a common bond between the constituent members of the MFGHC. Each respects the beliefs and traditions of the others and seeks to be supportive of their common purpose. Healthcare chaplaincy draws its life and values from these various religious traditions, and the work between the faith communities is to ensure that such endeavour is, in this way, appropriately grounded.
 - Faith underpins the work of chaplains in the faith communities and requires healthcare chaplains to work within the teachings of their faith community and to understand and respect the boundaries and teachings of the other faith communities.
 - The majority of people receiving healthcare have beliefs which equate to or match those within the world faith communities. These individuals can therefore best be sustained by healthcare chaplains who understand faith and beliefs across the world faiths.

Reference Group

6. Following the meeting with Dr Harris, Chair of the Reference Group, in July and his meetings with chaplains in the early autumn, Tim Battle is to review the impact of chaplaincy practise on individuals with the faith communities direct. If there is agreement to the impact of chaplaincy on individuals, consideration will need to be given to whether the regulation of chaplains should be undertaken on a statutory basis.
7. Invitations to the NHS management representatives on the Reference Group are being handled with the NHS Confederation.

Manhar Mehta
Chair, Project Board

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