



BULLETIN 5 – May 2004

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Welcome

Welcome to the Bulletin of the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy (MFGHC). This Bulletin is distributed every four months to inform colleagues about the work being undertaken by the Council and its Committees.

“Standards for Better Health” - the Department of Health’s consultation on Health Care Standards for services under the NHS

The Council endorsed the submission made on their behalf in response to this consultation exercise. This focused on the need for explicit reference to spiritual healthcare of which no reference had been made in the NHS standards. Concern had also been expressed that such a standard for spiritual healthcare should be core and not just developmental.

Launch events for *Caring for the Spirit*

Members were thanked for the offers of help to cover the five presentations with South Yorkshire WDC. Barney Leith reported on the first of these in Billingham where attendees had expressed great interest in the subject matter generally and support for the work of the MFGHC. Other events were planned for Taunton, London, Sheffield and Redditch

The final version of the strategy implementation plan was available to members on request. Barbara Walsh commented that, although this was essentially a management document, it encapsulated a great deal of the substantial progress which was being made in spiritual healthcare.

Review of Department of Health central allocation of funding for NHS chaplaincy

The Council was disappointed that the Department of Health had turned down its application for support in the form of a grant under section 64 for the years 2004-07. Mr John James indicated that his commitments had lessened with the completion of other projects and that he intended to undertake the review of the central allocation in the near future. Arrangements are therefore being made for these meetings to be progressed in the near future.

Developing an educational framework for spiritual healthcare

The meeting to develop the educational framework for spiritual healthcare has been set for mid-September at a venue in London. The day was to be lead by Jill Brunt of the NHSU and would bring together a number of issues for SYWDC and individual faith groups and bodies.

Election of Honorary Officers

The Council discussed and approved a paper setting out the process for the election of Honorary Officers. The amended copy would be circulated to members and added to the constitution.

The timetable envisaged that elections for the Chair would take place in September, the Vice-Chair in October and the Co-Chairs of Committees in November.

Marshalling resources for world faith chaplaincies and multi-faith chaplaincy

The trawl letter prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Education Committee had been circulated widely within the community of chaplains. There has been a good response and some interesting and helpful resources were becoming available. A small sub-group is meeting to review the content of the material submitted probably during July.

In discussion, it has been agreed that the remit of the Group should be regarded as including England and Wales until otherwise indicated.

Awayday to prepare draft standards for spiritual healthcare

Ron Maddox reported that 20 chaplains and members had met in March for a day drafting standards for spiritual healthcare. These were being prepared for discussion by the Committee in July prior to submission to the Council and consultation with NHS bodies

Individual membership of MFGHC

The Council noted that there was increasing personal interest amongst chaplains in the work being undertaken by the MFGHC and that recognition of this support could be given by enabling an individual membership of MFGHC

There was strong support for this proposal which would enable the current rapport with colleagues to become more vital and interactive. At the same time, it was recognised that individual membership of MFGHC should not overlap with membership of other membership bodies. There was however a need to make the association between chaplains and MFGHC more direct.

Members were anxious that there should not be a confusion between the work of the MFGHC and that of the College of Health Care Chaplains. After further discussion, it was agreed to review this initiative in the light of the outcome of the meeting of all parties planned for later in the month.

Office support

There was discussion of the workload engendered by the Council's activities and consideration of ways to lessen this. There was concern at the refusal of grant aid by the Department of Health but determination that this should not undermine the work which the Group had initiated. Members' offer to help wherever possible was gratefully received.

Dates of next meetings

The Council agreed to meet again on Wednesday 8th September 2004 and Tuesday 18th January 2005

Communicating the work of the MFGHC

The MFGHC has established a website (www.mfghc.com) where its work will be highlighted. It intends to publish an e-bulletin about its progress every four months. For routine communication, Edward Lewis can be contacted at the address given above.

EJL 28th May 2004