

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

**Present:** Mr Ron Maddox (in the chair)  
Revd Robert Evans  
Mr Jayman Mehta  
Mr Manhar Mehta  
Rabbi Martin van den Bergh

**In attendance:** Tim Battle

**SC 1/05 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Sital Singh Maan, Mr Kishor Ruparelia and Revd. Preb. Peter Speck.

**SC 2/05 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004 were agreed.

**SC 3/05 Standards for Better Health: Health Care Standards for services under the NHS – a consultation by the Department of Health (ref. min 6/04)**

The Committee noted that the final version of DH standards included a reference to spiritual healthcare in Standard D2(b). This was a developmental standard and progress would need to be monitored.

**SC 4/05 Draft standards for spiritual healthcare (ref. min 8/04)**

The Chair noted that the Council had agreed to hold back from commenting on the first complete set of standards whilst further discussions were held on format. These discussions had now been completed with advice from the Health Quality Service and the revised proposals were for consideration.

The Committee made changes to the draft standards in order to reduce duplication and complexity. There was concern about the number of standards being proposed and Tim Battle was asked to consider whether all needed to be publicised at this stage. Subject to these considerations the draft was approved for listening.

The Committee discussed the process necessary to reach agreement on the draft standards and agreed the following stages:

1. Approval by MFGHC Council
2. Listening exercise with chaplains and chaplaincy bodies (three months)
3. Committee review outcome of stage 2
4. Listening exercise with NHS and other bodies including devolved Governments, Healthcare Commission, Patient related bodies (three months)
5. Committee review outcome of stage 4
6. Draft final statement to be approved and published by Council (target date May 2006)

The Committee asked for further advice about the need for DH “approval”

#### **SC 5/05 Maintaining standards in spiritual healthcare**

Tim Battle reported on discussions arising from the study for world faith chaplains at which concerns had been raised that NHS Trusts were failing to implement the new policy guidance.

In its discussion, the Committee accepted the following main points:

- There needed to be an ownership of the policy guidance which itself acknowledged that financial constraints meant that Trusts might not be able to comply immediately
- There needed to be support for those who wished to raise these issues as individuals often found the NHS unresponsive and failing to listen
- The MFGHC needed to be alert to variations in the application of the policy which it had drafted. It had already acknowledged the need for greater clarity in the advice itself in agreeing the need for work on refining the ratios for beds and staff. At the same time, it wished to see full implementation of what had been agreed.

Taking these points together, the Committee suggested the following stages in the process to raise these issues with NHS Trusts:

**Stage 1** - The individual raises the issue with the Trust and should be seen to exhaust local procedures possibly including comments from PCTs/ SHA

**Stage 2** - The individual raises the issue with MFGHC which deals with the local SHA about policy issues/ compliance

**Stage 3** - In the event that the local SHA cannot achieve any progress, MFGHC should draw the problem to the attention of the South Yorkshire SHA as the lead NHS body for spiritual healthcare.

**Stage 4** - Such interactions should be publicised in the MFGHC Biennial Review

This approach was recommended to the Council.

**SC 6/05 Honorary Officers, MFGHC**

The welcomed the election of new Officers for 2005-06 as follows:

Chair – Rabbi Martin van den Bergh.

Vice-Chair – Mr Sital Singh Maan.

Co-Chairs Education Committee – HM Shafique Rahman, Mr Manhar Mehta.

Co-Chairs Standards Committee – Rev Bob Evans, Mr Ron Maddox.

**SC 7/05 Chaplaincy occupational standards – Research standard**

The Committee noted that a new standard for research had been approved under the established system linked to the Education Committee. In future, approval of occupational standards would be undertaken by the Standards Committee.

**SC 8/05 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to meet again on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at Church House.  
[NB This meeting was cancelled and a further date will be sought in October]

**MFGHC Standards Committee**

**LIST OF MEMBERS – March 2004**

Rabbi Martin van den Bergh	Visitation Committee Wembley Synagogue 8 Forty Avenue Wembley Middlesex HA9 8JW	020 8385 1855  <a href="mailto:mvdbergh@btinternet.com">mvdbergh@btinternet.com</a>
Mr Ronald C. Maddox (Co-Chair)	62 Eltham Road Reed Close Lee London SE12 8UE	020 8318 3779
The Rev Robert Evans Co-Chair	Chaplaincy Department University Hospital of Wales Heath Park Cardiff CF14 4XW	029 207 43230 Pager: 07623 905553  <a href="mailto:bobevans190@hotmail.com">bobevans190@hotmail.com</a>
(CHI Observer)	The Commission for Health Improvement 10th Floor Finsbury Tower 103-105 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8TG	020 7448 9264
Mr Sital Singh Maan	5 Elm Park Road Finchley London N3	020 7836 9787  <a href="mailto:wheres_sital@yahoo.co.uk">wheres_sital@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Mr Jayman Mehta		
Mr Kishor Ruparelia		
The Rev Preb Peter Speck	22 The Harrage Romsey Hampshire SO51 8AE	01794 516937  <a href="mailto:peter.speck@which.net">peter.speck@which.net</a>
Roman Catholic representative		
Bahai representative		
Muslim representative		
Zoroastrian representative		