

Chaplaincy Leadership Forum (CLF)ⁱ

Update: 12 September 2016

Meetings

Since the last update (in April) the CLF met on 7 June. The Executiveⁱⁱ has also met in May, June, July and September. These regular meetings of the Executive (usually by phone) have helped keep the business of the Forum moving along. They next meeting of the full forum is planned for 27 October.

The CLF Meeting in June

This was a well-attended meeting with 15 leaders present. Sarah Sewell was unanimously elected as chair elect of the CLF and CLFE to serve for 2 years from November 2016. She was warmly welcomed to the meeting by all present. Sarah will take over from Mia Hilborn, who has served the Forum tirelessly since its formation in 2013.

The major part of the agenda was spent discussing Information Governance issues for chaplains. There is an update on the current situation below.

Information Governance

A paper was discussed at the CLF meeting in June and circulated with the minutes. Subsequent discussions are ongoing but there is still a way to go to enable chaplains and spiritual care providers to have the necessary access to patient information whilst meeting the requirements of:

- The common law duty of confidentiality
- The data protection act, and
- The Human Rights Act

These three aspects of law are all different but overlap, and the point of overlap is where chaplains operate! The following considerations are being discussed:

- It is not likely that a straightforward solution will be found.
- Chaplains are part of the direct care team.
- It is not clear if all locally agreed arrangements would stand up to a legal challenge.
- It has been suggested that agreement from national bodies such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the General Medical Council (GMC) should be sought in future for the arrangements for chaplains to have appropriate data access, but this will take some time.
- Explicit consent may be required, but this needs to be easy to implement and straightforward.
- Information must be processed in a way that most patients would expect.
- Arrangements would need to be tried at local level pilot sites and rolled out nationally.
- Some faith groups in the Forum are introducing processes for their members to request chaplaincy support.
- In the meantime, chaplains may carry on with current practices that are locally agreed, working closely with their employing organisations.

Making Chaplaincy Appointments

A number of letters from the **British Humanist Association** questioning equality issues surrounding the appointment of Chaplaincy posts have been received by Trusts advertising on NHS Jobs. The tone of the letters caused some distress to those who received them.

The Forum has worked collaboratively with the **Non-religious Pastoral Support Network** towards ensuring that a proper equality analysis is done at an early stage in the appointment process for any chaplaincy posts. Papers have been written to help guide chaplains and HR staff who are seeking to make appointments and they have been previously circulated. They are attached again for your convenience with this update. They are also on a number of chaplaincy websites.

Training sessions on completing an equality analysis will be held in the North and South of England. These will be suitable for HR staff and chaplains making appointments. There will also be opportunity at other meetings of chaplains to look at the process.

NHS England

Catherine Thompson and Paulette Johnson have both shown a commitment to the work of Chaplaincy and have either one of both attended most CLF and Executive meetings. This is very encouraging to all the members of the Forum.

Panel of Advisors

Following the conclusion of Chris Swift's term of office as chair of the Panel, Cameron Langlands has been acting as chair until a permanent replacement is appointed. He has been attending meetings in that capacity.

UKBHC

The UKBHC has submitted its application for their register of Healthcare Chaplains to be accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). The completed application will be publicly available on the PSA website: www.professionalstandards.org.uk

Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group (HCFBG)

The Non-Religious Pastoral Care Network (NRPCN) is now formally part of the HCFBG. It is a member to represent all strands of non-religious belief.

ⁱ The Chaplaincy Leadership Forum was formed to support the strategic development of healthcare chaplaincy in England. Members can be nominated by any organisation or group with an active interest in supporting the provision of healthcare chaplaincy in England. The aims and workstreams of the Forum are furthered between the meetings of the Forum by an executive made up of the key leaders at the bottom of this update.

ⁱⁱ The members of the executive are:

Mia Hilborn mia.hilborn@gstt.nhs.uk (Chair)
Sarah Sewell sarah.sewell@esth.nhs.uk (Chair elect)
Mark Burleigh president@healthcarechaplains.org
Derek Fraser derek.fraser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
Debbie Hodge debbie.hodge@freechurches.org.uk
Karen Murphy karen.murphy@westonhospicecare.org.uk
Cameron Langlands clanglands@aol.com (until a new chair of the Advisers' Panel is appointed)