

Christmas 2015

2015 has been another full year of challenges, changes and opportunities for those of us working in palliative care. Research has demonstrated that the UK is number one in service provision in this area of care but there remains a struggle in some places to demonstrate a commitment and valuing of chaplaincy. In these past months of being president, I have already been made aware by several of our members of the difficulties involved in maintaining a presence in the face of cost reductions and re-organisation. Hopefully 2016 will see some changes which may support our place at the table with some effectiveness. In February, the UKBHC will finally submit an application to proceed with professional accreditation for chaplains. This should give us a stronger voice and credibility in terms of our contribution to the multi-disciplinary team. It will require a commitment on our part too, by submitting an annual CPD summary for example. I will give a further update on this as the application goes through and more details emerge. Some of you, especially those working in NHS settings, have taken part in the request from NHS England, to share information about local practice around data sharing. This information is being collated now to give a picture of what currently chaplains have access to regarding patient information, but also highlighting changes that are appropriate to give a higher level of information sharing. Thank you to those who took part and gave time to giving this vital information.

AHPCC are currently carrying out a scoping exercise of our own to gather a picture together of our working practices across the membership, and in those organisations which currently do not have a chaplain. Jacki Thomas is carrying out interviews with chaplains or staff responsible for spiritual care and is already uncovering some interesting trends and themes. Some of this will not surprise us, but the information will give us a real sense of what your concerns and challenges are. The conference, for example, can then reflect to a greater degree what you are dealing with day to day, and the kind of areas in which you would value further training. Please give Jacki some time when you can to support her in this venture.

Finally, you will be receiving a message soon to prompt you to renew your membership for the coming year. If there are any changes in your situation, please make this clear so the right person receives the information.

AHPCC is a great organisation to be part of for support and sharing, it is a unique group of people who do fantastic work in difficult places. Keep up the good work and on behalf of all the executive committee, we send you our very best wishes for Christmas and the coming year

Karen.

Karen Murphy

AHPCC President