

Chaplaincy Leadership Forum (CLF)ⁱ

Update: 7 April 2016

Meetings

Since the last update (at the end of October) the CLF met on 16 February. The Executiveⁱⁱ has met on 26 November, 16 December, 16 February and 22 March. These regular meetings of the Executive (usually by phone) have helped keep the business of the Forum moving along.

The main items of news are:

The CLF Meeting in February

This was a well-attended meeting and spent the majority of its time looking at Information Governance issues for chaplains. Initially it had been planned to present a report on these issues, but there was still more work to do to gather information and a number of issues were raised by those present.

Working with 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. They have been taking a particular interest in the Information Governance update required by the 2015 Chaplaincy Guidelines.

Panel of Advisors

Chris Swift will be standing down as chair of the Advisors Panel at the end of May. He was thanked for his work in this role.

It has been decided not to produce an Equality Impact Assessment tool for advertising chaplaincy jobs. It is planned to increase the number of Advisors from 30 to 40 with interviews taking place in London and Leeds.

A complaints policy is being produced in case of a complaint against an adviser. It is recommended that advisers are non-voting on interview panels.

UKBHC

The UKBHC is almost at the point of submitting 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

Discussions are taking place with the HCFBC about the relationships between authorisation and registration.

Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group (HCFBG)

The second course of chaplaincy volunteers has taken place with volunteers from seven faiths. In all 21 people were on the course.

The HCFBG now intends to invite the "Non-Religious Pastoral Care Network" (NRPCN) to join the group, subject to some further steps being made to amend language and terms used by both parties. It will be there to represent all strands of non-religious beliefs.

Association of Hospice & Palliative Care Chaplains (AHPCC)

The AHPCC continues to represent and support chaplains working in palliative care. Their main event is the training conference in May with details on the website, www.ahpcc.org.uk, as well as links to membership and other information.

College of Health Care Chaplains (CHCC)

The CHCC Annual Conference will be taking place 5th-7th September 2016 at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8SG. The booking form is on the CHCC website: www.healthcarechaplains.org. This year's themes are "Faithful & Fair: Changing Chaplaincy in the NHS" (general strand) and "Creating a Sense of Belonging" (mental health strand).

NHS Funding

Funding has not yet been agreed for 2016-17, but there will be less money available than there was in 2015/16.

Information Governance

NHS England has received a briefing paper detailing the legal issues with regard to chaplains accessing patient information. This will be taken together with the points raised at the CLF discussion at the meeting on 16 February. From this Catherine Thompson and Paulette Johnson (both from NHS England) will produce a paper suggesting the way forward. This will include plans to meet with various parties to seek to move the process forward.

A number of ideas have been discussed at the Executive meeting, including issues such as professional registration, the legal basis for access by other non-registered healthcare staff and ways to gain consent from the patient.

Election of CLF Chair

In line with the Terms of Reference the Executive will bring a proposed name to the CLF meeting in June to serve as chair from November 2016.

Next Meetings of the CLF and the executive

The CLF will meet on 7 June in London.

The executive also plans to meet on 10 May, 7 June and 19 July usually by conference call.

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:

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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
Chris Swift chris.swift@nhs.net (until the end of May)