

MINUTES OF AHPCC EXECUTIVE MEETING of 2nd February 2016 at 27 Tavistock square London

Present: Karen Murphy (chair), Nigel Mason (secretary), Sally Bedborough, David Buck, Margery Collin, Thomas Duncanson, Matthew Hagan, Mike Rattenbury, Bob Whorton, Liza Waller, Gary Windon

Apologies: Dawn Allan; Markus Lange

Karen welcomed everyone

A sharing of personal reflections and updates from the executive members.

FINANCE : The Treasurer presented the ACCOUNTS for the year ending 31st December 2015

Membership reported a number of 171 indicating a substantial increase but that this was optimistic as renewals and notice of vacancies, retirements/resignations not yet complete.

Scoping project: By invitation Jacki Thomas presented her Quantitative and Qualitative analysis (factual questions requiring yes/no answers; or such matters as scope of role, out of hours provision, current issues facing chaplains, agenda(s) for change, multi-faith and reflecting ethos of spiritual care) Exemplified the Lickert scale (on 1-10 strongly agree/disagree with given statements)

AGREED: small working group potentially with Jacki (if subsequently in agreement) to report to conference on objective (and after leading and facilitating executive members' responses and shared thoughts as to what we need, seek and aims and objectives).

Role of the Listener to be applicable for ourselves at Conference – to see what personal follow-ups required.

“Devotion for Lunch” – David kindly offered 3 of his own poems (and granted permission to use and circulate) THANK YOU DAVID

{Lunch}

Conference 2016 - Conference programme presented: amendments agreed

Chaplaincy Leadership Forum reported that this encompasses a monthly “disembodied” phone call and the next due in February (face to face meeting February 16th) requiring responses to Matthew Fry’s scoping project (gathering a picture of what is local practice and “good”) and what changes the Dept of Health are prepared to make to ensure chaplains are more data-aware! responses were invited to the Equality Impact Assignment and specifically to the “religion and belief” assessment criteria (as in England NHS statement requiring potential recruited “being of good standing with their faith communities” – not now stated as such in Scotland). Our response questioned patient data exclusively and not chaplains, the discriminatory language in respect of “groupings” which is a return to the historic, an assumption that Christian chaplains for Christians, muslim for muslims etc. And no understanding of the role of a chaplain.

UKHBC reported there was still the likelihood to retain a voluntary register of chaplains and that membership had decreased (from 418 to 253). The application for professional registration has been

submitted to the Professional Standards Authority on Feb 1st and the outcome should be known in due course.

SACHS reported the meeting of 28th January calling for its own dissolution; that it was a comparatively small group (about 67 full and 65 part-time chaplains) and that their role of training and producing a journal was now no longer theirs.

Regional Groups:

NI(AHPCC) & Donegal regional group due to meet next week in Donegal in the Republic, that attendance was good, speakers were arranged and meetings at different hospices. No formal note of meetings needed to be made (although some did)

SE held a good meeting in October 2015 with 25-30 attendees

Yorks and NE cancelled a meeting as no hospice available for venue.

NW, North Wales meeting due in Manchester

Oxon. Struggle to meet, although plan in April in Milton Keynes

SW meet twice a year and meeting plans expected. (Noted two vacancies now and Hospices not advertising as yet)

External reports:

European Network of Healthcare Chaplains meet every 2 years and 2016 due in Hungary:

Hospice Chaplain Book:

Karen and Bob to write and edit new book with Jessica Kingsley publishers, under one year contract: the opportunity to demonstrate why healthcare needs chaplaincy provision. The Title is "Chaplaincy in Hospice and Palliative Care. Chapters planned to take the form of dialogues between different professionals (voices from various aspects of the healthcare profession) with chaplains writing with and in responses to patients, carers, other professionals on chapters such as "Then and Now" – the historical perspective; the unique role of the palliative care chaplain; the theology of chaplaincy; a sacred or secular space? Do we have a voice? Challenges and "the unconscious we are sucked into;" Holding the tension; creative resources; reflective practice; different faiths/no faith; working with volunteers; our own refreshment and conclusions.

The idea of a "blog" as an open forum was envisaged.