

Minutes of Executive Meeting: Thursday 6th and Friday 7th October 2016 at the Etrop Hotle, Manchester Airport

Present: Karen Murphy (chair), Nigel Mason (secretary), Sally Bedborough, David Buck, Margery Collin, Carol Gully, Keith Morrison, Liza Waller, Bob Whorton, Gary Windon

Apologies: Matthew Hagan, Mike Rattenbury

Informal sharing – how are we (un-Minuted)

Conference 2017:

Arrangements made with three speakers: Simon O'Donoghue of the NRPCN (non-religious pastoral care network), Mark Burleigh (from Leicester) and Mia Hilborn (lead chaplain Guy's & St Thomas' London and was convener of Chaplaincy leadership Forum). Invitation given to Rehannah Sadiq, the Muslim chaplain of QE Hospital in Birmingham to be the chaplain for the conference.

The **Title** for the Conference (after some debate) is: **The Challenge of Diversity; Faith and Belief in palliative care**

Treasurer's report: 4 members had not paid for 2016 Conference but for 3 this was not their fault but their Trusts; agreed we had to accept this. If applications for attendance received from those Trusts Margery to be "very pro-active!"

Current account: £22,388.68; deposit account: £8,963.43

Membership Fee confirmed as remaining at £35

Membership: 165 for 2016; now open for 2017. Associated members to receive membership discount (£15) and to receive e-mail certificate of attendance at conference. Chaplains outside the UK can only become associate members (full membership to be for UK citizens only)

Web-site– new format approved and regional groups to be added as a separate menu. The web-site depends upon information provided!

Regional Groups:

Yorks & NE–; a challenge of venues (not all hospices forth-coming). Sharing and supportive group: 22 members, usually 5-13 met; encouraging a separation of the NE (geography) but issues of hospices not permitting time-out, costings and burden of finding speakers. Question of volunteer chaplains and local clergy.

Oxon – small but supportive; 6 including 1 volunteer meet 4 times per year; one presents (eg case vignette) and explored reflective practice, meet at each other's hospice.

Southern – have met (despite disbanded on website), 5 plus 2 volunteers + 1 multi-faith chaplain. Toured a hospice, shared and used a spiritual assessment tool

NW & North Wales at its last meeting on resources; a huge area (Carlisle to Macclesfield), normally 8 attendees; good meet in Carlisle on burn-out (NHS attendance too here)

Scotland (meet 3 times a year (march/June/September) about 15 attendees (including children's hospice). Meet at different hospices (inc new at East Kilbride). Talks on resources and practice – camaraderie appreciated. Hope for a retreat day, potentially Perth

SE geographical differences (between coastal and mid sussex)

SW meet 3 times a year - early, conference and autumn (an overnight offered through a volunteers' farm) Lead days

E Anglia move around different hospices; a fairly committed group, although not everyone to a full day. 3 times per year. Quiet day in July. 7-9 members (several do not come; there is a new chaplain at Bury St Edmunds); a sharing of experiences, resources and wisdom.

Margery concluded – about 50/60% of membership therefore belong/attend regional groups!

External groups:

UKHBC reported that on October 12th there shall be its AGM in Birmingham with its focus on any progress to its application for the professional standards authority. There hasn't been any update as yet; the BHA queried the eligibility of the application which is open for scrutiny. In June the UKHBC discussed its own role and purpose: 11 years ago it brought together such organisations as SACHS with APCM, but matters now have changed with the Chaplaincy Leadership Forum: its purpose seeks registration and the application process for chaplaincy including advertising. In the future it shall be known whether a chaplain is or is not registered.

The CLF: its focus is upon governance (cf IGA NHS Chaplains Governance 1st August 2016) and it was agreed that its advantageous for it allows access to information. An attempt is made to challenge the legislation but reported, although value is perceived, "the NHS does not have the heart at the moment"

Also concerned over chaplaincy appointments; a letter received on Christmas eve last year challenged an advertisement for a hospital chaplaincy appointment by the BHA and in light of this NHS Trusts have been advised regarding advertising with trained advisers being made available ; the point was raised that if all chaplains were registered professionally would there be a need for advisers?

APSE (Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education) at the annual conference in Birmingham with Jane Leach (Principal Wesley house Cambridge) and Michael Patterson highlighted the need for pastoral supervision which has a theological and spiritual focus. Spiritual directors, counsellors, psychiatrists and clergy attended although secular and supervisory chaplains might require something different. It focused on lectures and workshops using the Quaker style of supervision allowing silence.

EAPC next bi-annual conference is in Belgium in 2018,

The Book: Chaplaincy in Hospices and palliative Care reported that an additional chapter "What is a good death?" has been included; that publication isn't due until June 2017 but that the publishers shall be asked if advance copies would be made available for the Conference (or pre-orders obtainable)

The meeting ended with an hour-long (un-minuted) discussion on reflections upon chaplaincy and the future