

**AHPCC Executive Meeting 8th February 2018 at Free Churches house 27 Tavistock square
London WC2A 4HH**

Present: Karen Murphy (chair), Nigel Mason (secretary), Sally Bedborough, Chris Cheeseman, Margery Collin, Carol Gully, Keith Morrison, Stuart Murdoch, Gary Windon

Apologies: David Buck, Matthew Hagan (resigned)

10.30am Meet, welcome and apologies. Prayers offered by Karen. Condolence card already sent to Matthew

10.35am How are we? Shared un-minuted update

11.15am Minutes of Exec Meeting met in Edinburgh of November 1st and 2nd 2017 and any matters arising – received and approved

11.30am Conference at Swanwick 2018 finalising details: Sally updated; carol offered art equipment for art table (organised by Bob); booking form now available (associate members & early bird applicants £240, later applicants and non-members £280; part time attendees £80 for one day and overnight £120, though neither of these to be advertised); survey monkey – Sally to ask Judith Drury if she is able to and to provide some hard copies at conference (although to be stressed for aide memoire purposes only and these not to be handed in); book sales query as to whether “Contact” payments possible (guidelines for use-age will be available); list of preparations (Keith) and poster (Keith – thank you); for web site purposes; Margery to be conference secretary, Sally to be conference organiser; CBT points – 12 applied for by Keith; Mike has agreed to cover Gary for IT purposes and his fees to be paid in full. Thanks Sally and Keith.

Conference 2019 booked at the Hayes; conferences 2020+ to be discussed at the Exec.’s July 12th meeting

12.00pm Treasurers’ report (Margery), now been accounted and circa £30,000 in accounts. 170 members in 2017, to date 74. Thanks Margery.

12.10pm web-site report (Gary) – circulars for distribution not to website but sent either individually or through Facebook. Question of compliance with new data protection legislation remains unknown but David sent 3 questions

pertinent to the question: 1. Does it clearly relate to work of chaplaincy? 2. Does it relate to hospice and palliative care? 3. Does it conform to the ethos/objectives of the AHPCC? If yes, then conforms.

Question of Richard as technical back-up use-age to be evidenced through last year. Thanks Gary

12.20pm External reports: HCLF & Chaplains: 21st February meeting David plans to attend and possibly Karen in London – it will be a new body and has potential for strategy re chaplaincy. Will report back.

UKHospice Board: Keith said that he had spoken to a number of Hospice UK board members at the Hospice UK conference about the possibility of AHPCC being a member and also to his hospice's finance director who is a Hospice UK Trustee. He said that they indicated that there was no membership for groups that were not a hospice, They do however have stands that could be made available to Palliative care organisations so that they can have representation and a platform at the Hospice UK conference. Keith will pursue this to find out costs etc.

European Healthcare Chaplaincy – this years' conference is in Belgium in June 2018 and usually 2 places funded: Karen as President plus a.n.other (Margery already attending – she could if no one else from exec. able to, but need for application booking to be made soon).

12.45pm Lunch

1.30pm Austyn Snowden, professor of mental health at Edinburgh Napier University and visiting professor at Leuven University Belgium (lead researcher of the European Research institute for Chaplaincy in Healthcare) – co-author (with Revd Iain Telfer) of the Scottish PROM (a patient reported outcome measure designed to measure the impact of chaplain interventions on patients) to speak and discuss potential collaborative work with AHPCC:

“The study is to show how much chaplains improve outcomes for patients; it involves a short survey before they see the chaplain, and then one afterwards and there is also the option for chaplains to fill in the survey as well: the benefit for taking part for chaplains is a better understanding of how they

affect the people they see; the benefit to the organisation is objective evidence of the utility of the chaplain and the benefit to the patient is that they have an opportunity to feedback on how they were helped.”

PROM is the only measure validated for chaplains – however, it has never been used in palliative care. The question remains: why do it?

A screening process is advised (Austyn shall send questions: it's published but has never been tested). It is the consent of the patient rather than being “protected” by nurses. There is the question of ethics – GP surgeries in Scotland received approval but it would have to be a fresh application for such use-age by ourselves.

Questions arose regarding the “after” questionnaire: important to bear in mind what would you wish to know in asking was the encounter with the chaplain useful? There could be a “surrogate” asking these questions (family member, volunteer – given demands on nurses’ time – could be a designated staff member , not the chaplain!).

We cannot do a “randomised” trial although ethical so a “tool” is appropriate – and PROM was considered (with its “before” and “after” questions as the best)

Question though of practicalities: given for example the length of stay in an IPU unit. Should there be a referral system – encounters can “occur”

The benefit of the “after” questionnaire is in getting the views of the chaplain

PROM is a standard measure and questions must remain unchanged – however, other questions could be added.

There seem to be different variables which might affect the process. Flexibility found in GP surgeries allowed time for the study to be implemented: this may not be appropriate in palliative care. Being able to talk has been found to be more important than being understood. The luxury of time and the neutrality of the chaplain is powerful and adds to the evidence. The best type of study is how you work/ where you are.

Is it research or evaluation? This latter should be made by ethical body to which the institution attests. There must therefore be an agreed proposal for chaplain to take to their own ethical body. Eva Bewlens in Belgium and employed by ERICH could be asked to assist in creating such a proposal.

Our next step? Seems we might be moving towards a more “simple” study, to include patients and their families and going for the “After” questionnaire only with a 3rd party designated.

Many thanks to Austyn for his input and guidance.

(Austyn Snowden departs)

So: Keith, Margery and Carol to be a working group moving this forward (with Stuart and Karen in the loop) – meeting later this month in Cambridge, answering (if possible): what is feasible? A proposal seeking ethical approval. And looking at the process.

Thanks to them.

3.00pm Regional reports:

NW met at Bolton in February (12 attendees), new chaplains a topic/discussion – clinical psychologist on p/c and the overlap with the chaplain. Meet next July Blackpool

Scotland –meet March (Ayrshire Hospice), the host presents; in June The Bield retreat house Perthshire and in September at inverness Highland Hospice.

Eastern England – meeting planned 2nd March, 8 to attend; 2 vacancies.

SW Eng – failed to meet January, numbers decreasing.

Central south – no plans to meet but in touch.

3.30pm A.O.B. – letter received asking for participation in film documentary (Karen to respond) – pointed out that Strathcarron already have made such (“Seven Songs for a long life”) and the I of W reportedly have as well.

Elections at this years’ AGM: Both Karen and David to re-stand. With Liza, Matthew, Nigel and Sally resigning from the Executive – there are 4 vacancies to fill. And Gary was co-opted last year: he has expressed willingness to be elected (this does not affect the 4 vacant places) – Keith proposes, carol seconds.

2019 – Keith, Carol and Margery due for re-election; 2020 – Chris and Stuart due to stand if wishing to for re-election.

Stuart said that part of his role in Scotland was reviewing funeral policy and the Taunton project of a funeral business was raised: Agreed conveners to ask regional groups before the Conference are we in agreement or not as chaplains/Institutions with the Taunton funeral provision – and report directly back to Stuart.

Gary asked whether we had received the poetry book “The Long Way Down” – we hadn’t so agreed to send to David for his consideration.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm