

UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM): Wednesday 2thSept 2011, Belfast

1. **Welcome** to Belfast by Rev. Gerard Fox, President of Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplains' Association (NIHCA)
2. **Apologies** were received from Lyn McIntyre, Stephen Thornton, Steve Barnes and Andrew Graham
3. **Present::** Malcolm Masterman, Tom Gordon, Martin Bradley, Derek Fraser, Mark Stobert, Derek Johnston, David Mitchell and Carol English. Stuart Jones, James Gray, Marlene Taylor, Caroline Milfee
4. **The Minutes** of the AGM held in Edinburgh on 2011 were agreed.
Prop. Mark Stobert
Sec. Ewan Kelly
5. **Welcome and Introduction** – Derek Fraser Chair UKBHC
6. **Appointment Advisors Report:** Malcolm Masterman described the process for the development of the role of the advisors panel through the amalgamation of the HCC Assessors and the Professional Advisors of the professional bodies. This has happened through the formation of the Appointment Advisors Reference Group chaired by Malcolm Brown at Church House as stated in the UKBHC Annual Report.

The Department of Health (DH) will publish and promote the new arrangements via the Chief Executives letter. The aim is to ensure a UK wide approach that will be reflexive to national issues and appointments.

A Q&A session followed during which the following issues were raised with particular reference to Northern Ireland:

- a. There are no full-time health care chaplains
- b. Most appointments were on a denominational basis and required faith group advice.
- c. The need to separate professional advice from denominational/faith group advice.

- d. Schedule 9 of The Equality Act 2010 presents challenges to the denominational issues

Tom Gordon highlighted that the movement is towards transparency in appointments so that the public can have assurance about the consistent quality of the appointment of health care chaplains

Derek Fraser stated that DH is funding the work of Reference Group coordinator, Malcolm Masterman.

7. **Finance** David Mitchell presented the financial statement and made the following explanations:

- a. There were no donations from the professional bodies from July 2010
- b. Other Income: DH refunded booked travel for the Dec 2010 meeting that was cancelled due to adverse weather.
- c. Other Expenditure: expenses were incurred for Data Protection Registration

The Board meeting of 28.9.2011 set an annual fee for registration of £10 to be due from 1.1.2012

Finance Report was accepted

- Prop. Mark Stobert
- a. Sec.. Ewan Kelly

8. **Constitution** Tom Gordon (TG) presented the constitution for the UKBHC. TG made the following explanatory comments before the presentation:

- a. The constitution had been agreed by the UKBHC Board on 28.9.2012
- b. The Constitution presented was being tabled at the AGM in Sept 2011 so that it can be openly discussed and any amendments made and agreed before being adopted at AGM in Sept 2012.
- c. The constitution presented was a review of the Memorandum of Agreement that was adopted at the launch of UKBHC in June 2008.
- d. Attention was drawn to the inclusion of items to address the developing dialogue with other bodies and conflicts of interest.
- e. The Constitution will be posted on the UKBHC website for comment and consultation. www.ukbhc.org.uk

It was agreed to minute thanks to Tom Gordon and Martin Bradley for the work done in preparing the new constitution.

- a. Prop. Mark Stobert

9. **Website** Thanks were expressed by Derek Fraser to Mark Newitt who has agreed to maintain the website, and to the administrator at Addenbrooks Hospital

10. **Newsletter** Tom Gordon was thanked for his work in editing and producing the UKBHC Newsletter.
Tom made a request that chaplains send him items for inclusion in the newsletter, particularly ones sharing good practice.

11. **Q&A** It was suggested that there was need for a publication to answer the question below:

- a. What are the benefits of being on the register held by UKBHC?
- b. What are the benefits to trust of chaplains being on the register of UKBHC?

Ewan Kelly, Development Director for NES, informed the AGM that other disciplines in Scotland were asking about chaplains patterns of regulation, CPD and Codes of Conduct.

Tom Gordon stated that patients should be able to ask what gives a chaplain credibility and receive the reply that it is the regulatory process of the UKBHC.

Regulation gives the framework for raising the level of awareness of spiritual care over it being just about “nice, well meaning church people”>

Registration is a challenge to the chaplaincy profession, but it is the language that enables multi/inter disciplinary practice and working.

12. **Thanks** A vote of thanks to Derek Fraser was proposed by Tom Gordon and duly given.

Next meeting of the UKBHC 7th December in London –CTE building again

Dates of meetings in 2012: - 22nd March; 20th June; 6th Dec all in London

AGM meeting in Birmingham Wednesday 26th September.