

Newsletter June 2023

Functions of the UKBHC

UKBHC is an organisation of practising healthcare chaplains whose primary objects are to:

- Promote the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and service users and the protection of the public, through the UKBHC Code of Conduct and the maintenance of the register of UKBHC registered health and social care chaplains.
- Advance and disseminate the knowledge and practice of healthcare chaplaincy;
- Define and develop professional standards of chaplaincy including education, training and continuing professional development;
- Train advisers to support employers in the selection and appointment of healthcare chaplains;
- Operate procedures to consider, investigate and assess the professional conduct of registered chaplains;
- Maintain and develop systems to promote and accredit continuing professional development and the professional registration of chaplains.
- Maintain a voluntary register of health and social care chaplains.

WEBSITE

The main vehicle for contact with the UKBHC is the website - www.ukbhc.org.uk

Please access this regularly to keep up-to-date with important information for chaplains and others. Please also ensure your own information is updated if required.

We are working to update the website once we resolve technical issues that were beyond our control.

UKBHC Directors

There have been a number of changes in board membership from 6th June 2023 that we wish to communicate to registrants.

- Simon Betteridge had tendered his resignation as Chair & Director of UKBHC in April 2023 and his resignation was accepted.

- Interim arrangements were put in place to enable the business of the Board to continue.
- Tony Brookes was appointed as Chair. Tony therefore stepped down as Registrar
 - Anne Edwards has taken on the role of Registrar
 - Edward Carpenter has retired as Treasurer, though remains as a Director
 - Claudia Francis has taken on the role of Treasurer
 - Keith Morrison has completed his term as President of AHPCC and is replaced on the Board by the new President, Jill Thornton.

Thanks

Our sincere thanks to those who have served as directors or Officers who have now stepped down, and to those who have taken on new roles. Thanks also to our co-opted/observer representatives for the experience & insights they bring to the Board.

Areas presently in progress or under consideration by the Board

- A review of UKBHC organizational structure and roles – to be completed by December 2024
- UKBHC Whistle blower policy approved June 2023. To be put on the website.
- Code of Conduct review & consultation – to be completed by June 2024. Further details after September 2023
- Revalidation of registration
- Equivalence pathway to be put on the website
- Categories of registration & Portfolio route
- Updating & extension of Chaplaincy Job descriptions & Bands

From the new Chair – Tony Brookes

UKBHC – Vision – June 23-Dec 24

This paper follows from the Board meeting held on 6th June 2023. At that meeting, the Board agreed to the appointment of a new Chair. The board asked for a short paper providing an indication of the Chair's vision and priorities. This

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paper responds to that request, setting out how I believe the board should REACH out during this time, providing a broad outline of what I see as the key steps in the coming months. The routine business of the Board must continue to a high standard

1. Re-connecting Registrants

The primary purpose of UKBHC is to promote and ensure patient safety in respect of providing Chaplaincy/Pastoral and Spiritual Care in Healthcare. Therefore, it is essential that colleagues providing services day-to-day see some necessity of initial and continued registration. In this regard I would hope the focus might be on

- Delivering additional routes into registration
- Reconnecting in a meaningful way with registrants
- Connecting colleagues to develop practice
- Developing a vocational canon

2. Engaging with employers

Whilst UKBHC seeks to encourage colleagues delivering Chaplaincy/Pastoral and Spiritual Care to become registrants, it is noticeable that when making appointments, and in on-going employment, employers Trusts have had a variable regard towards the value of applicants being registered. Promoting UKBHC to employers will be essential, and in particular addressing three questions

- What does UKBHC do?
- Why does registration matter?
- What is the benefit to patients, staff and the Trust or Health Board?

This is likely to require developing contact with employers – Directors of Nursing, HR/Org Dev (suggest twice a year).

3. Articulating need

Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care colleagues and their employers sometimes question the benefit of employing UKBHC registrants or funding costs

associated with registration. Some choose almost to disregard the need for either initial or maintained registration. We can learn from other professions with voluntary registers.

- Engage via registrar with other professional bodies holding voluntary registers
- Deliver appropriate changes arising from lessons learned through this engagement
- Deliver the model Job/Person specifications.
- Continue to work with NHS bodies and Hospice guidance to ensure the value of colleagues being registered is made clear

4. Communicating regularly

Communication with registrants, employers and the wider NHS is likely to be key to achieving the ambitions outlined in this paper over the next 12 - 18 months. This is likely to involve:

- Reconnecting regularly with national Chaplaincy forums
- Developing social media presence
- Developing appropriate 'meet the team' podcasts, tweets
- Delivering the ambition to develop UKBHC 'Ambassadors'
- Delivering on a commitment to upgrade UKBHC website

To support this it might be helpful to have something of a communications strategy agreed by the board updating on the work of the board and sending key messages.

5. Helping the profession mature

With NHS Chaplaincy guidelines and strategic direction being reviewed in England, Wales and Scotland there is a pressing need to complete some significant 'work in progress' including:

- Urgently decreasing the number of applications in process
- Delivering the effective roll out of new categories of registration, addressing the detail in advance of roll-out

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- Prioritising an increase in associate registration in order to support all the strands of work identified earlier in this plan
- Ensuring the governance group reviews structures urgently to develop capacity to deliver these plans in order to progress the agenda and support the maturing of the profession.

Clearly, the vision must translate into actions, and the actions must ensure that Healthcare Chaplaincy continues to maintain and develop a professional framework which demonstrates value to the Public, to Employers and to Registrants.

However, delivery is the key, and delivery is entirely dependent upon the willingness and capacity of us all to do the work associated with the vision.

Registration update

➤ Figures from 6/6/2023 as below:

	March 2023	June 2023
Current active members	404	410
Unpaid members	172	91
No CPD return	192	113
New full members so far this year	11	24
New provisional members so far this year	20	30
Removed members so far this year	10	23
Applications in process	76	89

2022 UKBHC accounts

These were formally approved at the Board meeting on 6th June 2023.

Board meetings 2023

Date
Thursday 14 th September
Tuesday 5 th December 2023

If you have any matters you would like to be raised at the Board, please contact the secretary - derek.johnston@irishmethodist.org

Contacts

The four member groups of the UKBHC are:

AHPCC

Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains (AHPCC): www.ahpcc.org.uk
president@ahpcc.org.uk

CHCC

For updates on the CHCC's work and other helpful information, see www.healthcarechaplains.org

CHCC members can also get more information by logging into the members' area. To make any changes to your details, please contact the Registrar. You can also follow the CHCC Twitter account: @HealthChaplains.

NIHCA

Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplains' Association (NIHCA):
www.nihca.co.uk
 email - secretary@nihca.co.uk

Along with the **Scottish Professional Leadership Group for Spiritual Care**

If you have any stories/reflections that could be shared with wider chaplaincy through future newsletters, please forward them to the secretary. UKBHC reserves the right to publish or not.