

**Minutes of the Spiritual Care Committee**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 2.00pm**  
**Seminar Room 3, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital**

**Present:**

Amy Anderson, Non Executive Board Member, Grampian NHS Board (Chair)  
Gillian Douglas, Lead Chaplain, Mental Health  
Ann Ewing, Chaplaincy Volunteer  
Nigel Firth, Equality and Diversity Manager  
Laura Gray, Director of Corporate Communications  
Graeme Legge, Strategic Asset Manager, Summerfield House  
Kimberley Menzies, Location Manager, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership  
Ian Pallett, Chaplain Community Hospitals  
Mark Rodgers, Head of Spiritual Care and Lead Chaplain  
Terry Taggart, Honorary Episcopal Chaplain  
Chantal Wood, Business Manager

**Attending:**

Delaine Kennedy, minute taker.

**1 Welcome and Apologies.**

Chair welcomed members of the Committee to the first meeting of 2019 and read apologies from Rhona Atkinson, Vice Chair, NHS Grampian, John Ferguson, Church of Scotland, Sue Kinsey, Lay Member, Sandy Reid, Lead, People and Organisation, Aberdeen City Liz Tait, Head of Clinical and Care Governance, Dr Gray's Hospital, Yvonne Wright, Chief Nurse, Acute Sector Clinical Support, Angie Wood, Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Introductions were made around the table and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

**2 Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.

### **3 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 Trakcare.** Mark Rodgers confirmed there was nothing new or significant to report at present. The team is exploring how to use the functionality of Trakcare in a more targeted way that is still consistent with patient confidentiality.

### **4 Modernisation Programme in NHS Grampian, Graeme Legge, Strategic Asset Manager.**

Graeme thanked the Committee for the invitation to present and delivered an informative and comprehensive Capital Programme Update. Graeme highlighted that there are 94 buildings on sites within NHS Grampian; 60% of properties are over 30 years old and 34% are deemed to be in an unsatisfactory condition. He outlined the programme of works in recent years and going forward, including: the multi storey car park; Inverurie Health and Care Hub; Foresterhill Health Centre; Vital Energy; the new renal unit at Kincardine Community Hospital; backlog maintenance in ARI; the retail units; relocation of eye outpatient department; pharmacy replacement and Royal Cornhill Hospital, Huntly Ward. The total expenditure was £8.67 million on medical equipment and £2.2 million on IT investment.

Mark Rodgers explained that Chaplaincy had recently been contacted by the capital projects team in relation to the Denburn modernisation and Community Chaplaincy Listening requirements and how this had illustrated a positive interaction between services. Ian Pallet spoke about Leancoil Hospital and his relief to hear of the continued use of the listed building for the community.

The Chair expressed her appreciation at the breadth and scope of the work that Graeme's department is doing in providing a better environment for patients and staff, thanked Graeme and invited him to stay for rest of the meeting.

### **5 Annual Report 2018**

Mark Rodgers presented his report, which was entitled, "Trees That Bend in the Wind". He reviewed the work of the department under the related headings, making the following points:

**Root and branch:** a more streamlined structure, with fewer Chaplains, doing more hours.

**Top of the Tree:** following his retirement in September 2018, Mark paid tribute to Rev James Falconer's contribution to the department.

**A Tree is known by its Fruit:** the role of Chaplaincy in the NHS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and in student/staff training was highlighted.

**Up a Tree:** chaplains' contribution to staff support, in particular Values Based Reflective Practice was stressed.

**Acorns and Blossoms:** Under this heading the work of our many and varied volunteers was mentioned with appreciation.

**Out on a Limb:** The current revision of the Spiritual Care Policy and its integration into other NHS Grampian strategies was the focus here.

**Money doesn't grow on Trees:** Mark ended by gratefully acknowledging resources made available to Chaplaincy by NHS Grampian which he hoped are used wisely, creatively and effectively. Laura Gray thought the report was excellent, with a helpful summary and overview and hoped that the report will be shared with all Board Members as in previous years.

**Action: Laura Gray**

The Chair also commented that the report was a very good piece of work and asked that recognition of the work and achievements of Mark and his team for the last year were minuted.

The Chair enquired about the core Chaplaincy service. Mark responded that there is a local system for recording activity, either by the nature of the activity or the source of referral. At present guidance is awaited to see if data collection is going to be standardised nationally. However Mark agreed to collate information during 2019, as part of his report for next year.

**Action: Mark Rodgers**

The Chair appreciated this and thanked Mark for his report.

## **6 Spiritual Care Policy (2013) Revision.**

Mark Rodgers outlined small additional changes that had been made since the previous version came to the Committee. He explained that he had taken the original policy mission statement as the purpose of policy, included a reference to the *(Voluntary) Sector* and has also referenced *Nursing 2030 Vision and AHP Active and Independent*

*Living Programme in the Strategic Context.* The Spiritual Care Committee agreed to adopt this as the final version and Mark Rodgers agreed to send this version to the Clinical Process Document Group.

**Action: Mark Rodgers**

Proof reading will take approximately 4 to 6 weeks and then the document will be circulated widely. The Chair, Laura Gray and Mark Rodgers will sign the document.

**Action: Amy Anderson, Laura Gray, Mark Rodgers**

## **7 Sector Reports.**

### **7.1 Aberdeenshire.**

Special mention was made in appreciation of the work in Kincardine Community Hospital of Judith Pirie and in Glen O'Dee Hospital of John Duthie, in particular the carol services that had been held.

Ythanvale: there are plans to change this service in June with the potential for 8 beds for rehabilitation/end of life care for younger people. There is an opportunity here for Spiritual care input, e.g. listening service and to support families and young people in these situations.

### **7.2 Mental Health and Learning Disability.**

There have been continuing challenges with achieving safe staffing levels across the sector, resulting in temporary closure of wards.

Chaplaincy staff continue to provide support to staff and patients in this context, such as support following any adverse events, presence at the various 'forums' for nurses and VBRP sessions, some of them tailored to particular contexts, e.g. staff working in the Specialist Dementia Care facility. There was a well attended Christmas Carol Concert and a thank you tea party was held in December for Chaplaincy volunteers. Gillian Douglas mentioned the state of the RCH Chapel roof to Graeme and was advised to keep reporting it. Chantal Wood will now replace Judith MacLennan on the Committee.

### **7.3 Moray.**

Support continues to be offered to managers and staff in mental health teams due to a number of significant adverse events in recent weeks. Chaplaincy also continues to offer support in the context of changes to the paediatric service and Consultant led Obstetric unit. This led to a

broader discussion around communication with staff and the wider community. Dr Gray's is 200 years old during 2019 and planning has begun for 200 year thanksgiving anniversary service in October 2019

#### **7.4 Acute.**

As a result of a service re-design Katrina Blackwood has been appointed the new Acute Sector Lead as of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. There is now a Band 6 post in the Acute Sector vacant, with interviewing scheduled for late February 2019. As a result of extending the outpatient facility in RACH, the current Chaplain's office space will be lost. A new space has been identified and is as good an outcome as possible. There were a number of Memorial services associated with the Acute Sector held in December. These various services continue to meet very significant needs. The Bereavement Inter- Agency Working Group with the City Council met recently to advise and ensure that appropriate and sensitive arrangements are in place following baby loss. There is considerable concern surrounding the new paperwork recently approved by the Scottish Parliament for use in these circumstances. The Chair asked why paperwork was inappropriate. Mark Rodgers explained the template was centred around *adult* loss.

#### **7.5 Aberdeen City.**

The Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership has identified funds for a half time 2 year vacancy for a CCL volunteer co-ordinator. This appointment will relieve Katrina Blackwood of her CCL workload and allow her to focus n her acute role.

### **8 Any Other Competent Business.**

**8.1 Religions and Cultures Booklet.** Nigel Firth explained that the booklet generates very significant demand. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition will be available later in 2019. Faith group contacts and the Chairman's foreword will be updated.

**Action: Nigel Firth**

**8.2 Religious Needs of Patients.** Terry Taggart expressed frustration about meeting the religious needs of Episcopal patients. Mark assured him that if Episcopal patients requested sacramental support either directly to the Chaplaincy department or via healthcare staff that these

requests are transmitted and facilitated in a timely manner. This would apply to the religious needs of any patient.

**8.3 Primary Care Teams.** Kimberley Menzies raised Angie Wood's request to speak about the GP contract and primary care teams at a future Committee meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**9 Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 2pm in **ARI Boardroom**.

**2019 Meeting Dates (all 2pm):**

Thursday 9th May

Thursday 12th September

Thursday 14th November