

**Minutes of the Spiritual Care Committee  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 2.00pm  
Board Room, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary**

**Present:**

Amy Anderson, Non Executive Board member, Grampian NHS Board (Chair)  
Rhona Atkinson, Non Executive Board member, Grampian NHS Board  
Mervyn Barr, Humanist Society Scotland  
Roda Bird, Equality and Diversity Assistant  
Gillian Douglas, Lead Chaplain, Mental Health  
Ann Ewing, Chaplaincy Volunteer  
John Ferguson, Minister, Church of Scotland  
Nigel Firth, Equality and Diversity Manager  
Judith McLenan, Business Manager, Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Services  
Ian Pallett, Chaplain Community Hospitals  
Mark Rodgers, Head of Spiritual Care and Lead Chaplain  
Sandy Reid, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Leadership Team  
Terry Taggart, Honorary Episcopal Chaplain  
Angie Wood, Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership representative (by VC)

**In Attendance:**

Delaine Kennedy, minute taker.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
	Apologies were received from Liz Tait (Professional Lead for Clinical Governance; Laura Gray (Director of Corporate Communications and Board Secretary); Bishop Anne (Episcopal Church); Sue Kinsey (Lay Member) and Gillian Trew. Introductions made around table. The Chair extended a special welcome to Terry Taggart and Ann Ewing to the meeting.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Trakcare.</b>	
	Mark Rodgers explained that this was still work in progress, in order to obtain more cohesive and robust access to appropriate patient information. Better information would allow chaplains to offer proactive offer support to Shetland, Orkney and Highland patients. The Chaplaincy Secretary will receive further Trakcare training and cascade this to the Chaplaincy team. A further report will be available in February and this will include an assessment of whether there is information that is more relevant available.	DK MR
<b>4.0</b>	<b>“Services to People With Sensory Impairment” – Roda Bird, Equality and Diversity Assistant, NHS Grampian .</b>	

	<p>Mark Rodgers thanked Roda for responding at short notice to the invitation to make her presentation, as Bishop Anne was unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Roda gave a comprehensive talk (with handout) about sensory impairment, both visual impairment and/or hearing loss. She talked about raising awareness of both impairments and explained the resources that NHS staff can access in this area. Roda highlighted that sight loss can be harder than hearing loss because of physical constraints such as steps, public transport, barriers of movement etc.</p> <p>Roda invited feedback from the Committee. Nigel Firth explained about white sticks for visual impairment and red and white sticks for hearing loss, and reminded us not to touch hearing dogs when they are working. British Sign Language (BSL) users can access ipads on wheels (Cow) or laptops on wheels (Calf). These are currently used in the Acute Sector and are available from General Office. It is planned to roll these out to all wards. Chaplaincy have large print Bibles available for visually impaired patients.</p> <p>Ian Pallett asked for clarification on facilities available at Dr Gray’s Hospital. Roda explained there is one BSL interpreter and the intention is to roll this out video BSL in the future. Nigel Firth explained that NHS Orkney is introducing video BSL to fill the gaps in their service, but this is not intended to replace a face-to-face service.</p> <p>The Chair asked how this information was being communicated to staff. Roda confirmed that staff can access sessions and resources on the Intranet and that Sensory Impairment seminars run in May and November.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Roda for her presentation.</p>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>“Not An Illness Village” – Sandy Reid, Senior Service Manager.</b></p>	
	<p>Sandy opened his presentation by explaining the Aberdeen Health Village (AHV) opened 5 years ago as the first building of its kind in Scotland to be delivered by the Scottish Futures Trust. The Health Village could be best described as a community hospital without beds to treat people and promote health. Aberdeen Health Village provides sexual health services, physiotherapy, podiatry, an endoscopy service, x-ray and pain management clinics. Its location makes it convenient for both from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire patients. The Health Village also promotes health and wellbeing with gym equipment available, GHAT art exhibitions, mindfulness classes, and exercise classes. It has its own cafe (with free wifi) and music concerts. There are bookable interview rooms available for use and NHS colleagues have availability for clinical rooms if they have no clinic space themselves.</p>	

	<p>Sandy explained that the Community Chaplaincy Listening (CCL) service has made a very significant contribution to the Health Village. Sandy invited the Committee members to visit the Health Village – and said he would be happy to discuss any suggestions brought forward.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Sandy for his presentation.</p>	
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Spiritual Care Policy (2013) Revision.</b></p>	
	<p>Mark Rodgers explained this was still open for further changes It is hoped to bring back the latest version to the full committee in February 2019 (the closing date for comments is 14 December 2018). There were significant changes arising out of September’s meeting of the Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>New Section 3</u> – Strategic Context, linking with two streams of strategy – NHS Grampian and Chaplaincy at a national level. This also allowed some more explanation about Community Chaplaincy Listening and Values Based Reflective Practice.</li> <li>• <u>Organogram</u> (page 11) – shows the current structure of the Chaplaincy department.</li> </ul> <p>Mark Rodgers confirmed these are the main changes since the last version.</p> <p>The Chair invited comments from Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Pallett spoke about Page 4, Item 3, paragraph 4 – replace wording “stresses” with “<i>emphasise</i>”.</li> <li>• “Realistic medicine” (Page 5, Item 3, paragraph 10) Mark agreed that an explanatory sentence could be put in here to encapsulate what realistic medicine is. Judith McLenan explained it is ownership of wellbeing and health, and being honest and realistic about what chaplains can/cannot help people with.</li> <li>• Organogram – Mervyn Barr enquired about Sunday Escorts. Mark explained that Woodend and RCH volunteers accompany wheelchairs or escort patients to services.</li> <li>• Rhona Atkinson spoke about the strategic context being useful but there could be more interaction with other strategic streams in the organisation. She wondered if some interaction with Caroline Hiscox, Acting Director for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions, might be useful in that regard</li> <li>• Outcome 2 “To enable and support Health and Social Care staff to enhance spiritual wellbeing”. Rhona Atkinson said it would be useful to have an independent proof reader (Clinical Governance) after February’s meeting. Nigel Firth has forwarded Mark Rodgers his Impact Assessment and confirmed that any Equality and Diversity changes can be turned around quickly.</li> <li>• Sandy Reid spoke about Grampian Area Partnership Forum staff policy. He asked if this group could be</li> </ul>	<p>MR</p> <p>MR</p>

	<p>linked via Rachael Little, Employee Director to Partnership and Staff Governance so that staff can see this policy as something that supports them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mervyn Barr spoke about past experience of an employee assistance/counselling line and asked if there was a similar service available for NHS staff .Rhona Atkinson confirmed there were various services available, for example from Occupational Health.</li> <li>• Mark confirmed that the policy is still in draft form and its title will be “Spiritual Care Policy 2019-2022”. It will come back to the Committee in February 2019 for approval.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Sector Reports</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	
	Angie reported on recent work in care homes, very sheltered housing complexes and community hospitals to increase intergenerational activities. There is evidence to suggest there are benefits when young and older people are given opportunities to meet together, especially at Christmas.	
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Mental Health and Learning Disability</b>	
	There are continuing challenges to achieving safe staffing levels across this sector. Temporary closures to manage situation have seen an improved, safer environment. The Huntly Ward refurbishment is complete with Corgarff Ward relocated there in October. This work received a Health and Safety commendation. The Lead Chaplain (Mental Health) presented at a Band 6 nurse forum on 21 November, reminding staff of the role of chaplains and introducing Values Based Reflective Practice (VBRP) sessions across RCH. The Chair congratulated Judith on her forthcoming new role in the Acute Sector and thanked her for her contribution to the Spiritual Care Committee in recent years.	
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Moray</b>	
	Ian Pallett will be starting year 2 of the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy. Chaplains continue to support staff during temporary closures in Paediatrics. The Oaks and Macmillan memorial service was well received, as was the NHS 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday display at Dr Grays. The Chair enquired about the morale of staff. Ian Pallett explained this was a challenging time and that there were concerns about workforce pressures and changes.	
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Acute</b>	
	Rev James Falconer retired in September 2018. There had been no applicants for the Band 7 Acute Sector Lead Chaplain role and this will be re-advertised, with the possibility of a service re-design. The RACH Chaplain’s office is to be relocated directly above RACH Chapel due to an extension to clinical accommodation. The November 2018 Chaplaincy Study Morning ‘Spiritual Care and Organ Donation’ held at Mannofield Church received positive feedback. The Chaplaincy team led and facilitated 3 recent memorial services for	

	relatively young members of staff. On 16 <sup>th</sup> November there was a 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the Renal Service based in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary but covering all of the North of Scotland. This took place in ARI Chapel and Chaplaincy facilitated and gave advice for the event, part of which was later broadcast on STV. There was significant appreciation of Chaplains' support, raising awareness of their role and positive feedback.	
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Aberdeen City</b>	
	No report.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	Nothing to report.	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting.</b>	
	The next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2pm in Seminar Room 3, R.A.C.H.	

**2019 MEETING DATES (all 2pm):**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February; Thursday 9th May;  
Thursday 12th September; Thursday 14th November

APPROVED