

Spiritual Care Committee
Thursday 26th November 2020 2.00pm
Via MS Teams

Board Meeting 03.06.21 Open Session Item 11.6
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Present:

Amy Anderson, Non Executive Board Member, Grampian NHS Board (Chair);
Gillian Douglas, Lead Chaplain, Mental Health;
Jane Ewen, Nurse Director, Excellence and Innovation;
Sue Kinsey, Public Partner;
Sue Rayner, VBRP(R) Lead Facilitator;
Dennis Robertson, Non Executive Board Member;
Mark Rodgers, Head of Spiritual Care and Lead Chaplain;
Kerry Ross, Deputy Business Manager, MHLDS;
Liz Tait, Head of Clinical and Care Governance, Dr Gray's Hospital;
Maggie Whyte, Church of Scotland;
Yvonne Wright, Chief Nurse, Acute Sector Clinical Support.

Attending:

Delaine Kennedy, minute taker.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Chair welcomed members of the Committee to the meeting – apologies were received from: Mervyn Barr, Humanist Society Scotland; Ann Ewing, Chaplaincy Volunteer Visitor; Fiona Forbes, Nurse Manager, Woodend Hospital; Rachel Little, Employee Director, Summerfield House; Father Emmet O'Dowd, Roman Catholic Chaplain; Ian Pallett, Healthcare Chaplain, Dr Grays, Elgin; Flora Watson, Macmillan Nurse Consultant, Palliative Care; Chantal Wood, Business Manager, MHLDS.

Chair opened by welcoming everyone at the end of a very unusual year and requested permission for the recording of the meeting for accurate minute purposes; no objections made to this. Introductions were made, new faces welcomed and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2020.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a full and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1 Project Wingman by Jane Ewen, Nurse Director, Excellence and Innovation.

Jane Ewen spoke about the first phase concluding in Aug/Sept 2020 due to the increase of aircraft crew returning to work. This was successful in Dr Grays and Woodend. Due to space required for physical distancing, a site has not been secured at ARI. A site has been secured at RCH commencing 1st December and gives staff support and a comfortable place to sit – project has been supported by business donations and features giving the atmosphere of an airport lounge. Liz Tait spoke of the dedicated space available at Dr Grays enabling Project Wingman to run there since May 2020, with seating provided by Endowments. Reducing Project Wingman days at Dr Grays allows the Project Wingman team to go to Community Hospitals also. Currently Crowdfunding is taking place to purchase mobile bus at £100k to tour UK and invite people in. Project Wingman lounge is used as additional seating and rest area

for late and night staff. Jane Ewen mentioned that Easyjet pilot and Project Wingman founder Emma Henderson is from the NorthEast and has won a national award for her work.

The following was covered in subsequent discussion: positive feedback has been received via Aberdeen hub visitors book and personal visits by Lord Lieutenant and Douglas Ross MP at Dr Grays were well received by staff; Project Wingman was a welcoming service provided by those who were being made redundant and sadly going through their own challenges.

Chair thanked Jane Ewen and Liz Tait for their updates.

3.2 Chaplains Week (w/c 19th October 2020) by Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain.

Mark Rodgers explained Chaplains Week 2020 was online via NHS Grampian Facebook page and interview on Grampian Hospital Radio. Plenty of feedback and generous gifts were received. This raised Chaplaincy profile and it was acknowledged that offers of help for Chaplains Week from the SCC would be taken up in October 2021. Gillian Douglas spoke about her involvement in co-ordinating Chaplaincy contributions and highlighted significant Chaplaincy presence though COVID-19.

Chair expressed enjoying the YouTube service (to be covered under point 5, "Virtual" Chaplaincy).

3.3 Action – Chair and Rachel Little, Employee Director, NHSG.

Chair pointed out that a VBRP(R) date for Chair and Rachel Little is on Agenda for Board Seminar in 2021 and will report back to the Committee.

4. Values Based Reflective Practice by Sue Rayner, VBRP(R) Lead Facilitator, NHS Grampian.

Sue Rayner opened her presentation by thanking the SCC for their invitation and mentioned that together with Jim Simpson, how much SCC input is appreciated and the importance of being part of the SCC.

Sue explained that since the VBRP(R) initiative started and developed 10 years ago in Scotland, NHSG has really embraced it – providing space and opportunity for staff to look at something in the past, in safe space in the present and have support to take things forward. There are 16 facilitators – 11 working with groups and 5 connected with Community of Practice until groups can be established. Sue is working with Teams at Dr Grays where staff are much more connected now via monthly-held Community of Practice and is looking at best way that VBRP(R) can be involved in the NHSG Magnet recognition initiative. Also being able to offer and introduce VBRP(R) at new graduate nurse welcome events, RGU nursing seminars, palliative care master classes, team meetings for national leads for excellence and care and part of Town Hall talks with Carole Clarke, Healthcare Chaplain. Sue and Gillian Douglas have spoken about how to support staff members at Woodend. VBRP(R) item in the COVID-19 brief in July produced an encouraging response re taster sessions and training and regular groups are now running. Most groups can take place face-to-face in small spaces with social distancing and MS Teams has extended the possibilities of VBRP(R) facilitator training. VBRP(R) is being re-established in ITU and ED in a safe and secure way. Sue is also part of the weekly clinical risk meeting, Health and Wellbeing group and the Psycho-Social Response Cell. Town Hall talks taster sessions with Porterage and Domestic staff were well received where safe space is valued, with gratitude and opportunity is to be listened to. NES have decided to

move VBRP(R) training onto MS Teams beginning with 'Essential Toolkit' and NHSG are to trial and test online modules by end January 2021. A dedicated TURAS platform for VBRP(R) is currently being put together to raise profile. There are concerns over capacity and sustainability but it is hoped the new way of training will help new facilitators. Funding is currently being sourced for 'Dynamics and Processes' to expand groups that are run. (Example given of staff appreciation of their senior staff encouraging and covering for them to attend VBRP(R) sessions).

The following was covered in subsequent discussion: Sues role and value of VBRP was complimented; it was acknowledged that not everyone who has completed 'Essential Toolkit' go on to attend 'Dynamics and Processes'; can SCC help VBRP in anyway? possibility of Jim Simpson delivering 2 day 'Dynamics and Processes' course to release the logjam and ease burden on other facilitators; between May and mid-November 164 VBRP(R) sessions, 6 events and 13 presentations had taken place with 903 contacts with members of staff; how VBRP(R) fits into changing culture – caring, listening, improving; funding for 'Dynamics and Processes' with Jim Simpson to be discussed at next 1 to 1 with Mark Rodgers and Jane Ewen; thanks received for VBRP(R) over the years and support of MS Teams; expression of staff disappointment when staff are too busy to be released to attend VBRP(R) sessions; staff said to be showing lots of resilience and doing extraordinary things alongside high levels of emotion and exhaustion; that staff home circumstances may have changed – impact of economics on working life; staff are showing extraordinary levels of commitment in their roles. Chair thanked Sue for her presentation and offered congratulations on NES pilot.

5. “Virtual” Chaplaincy, by Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain.

Mark opened by paying tribute to the Chaplaincy team for sustaining a predominately in-person presence throughout Covid19. However one of the areas in which this could not be maintained was the series of Memorial services that are usually hosted in the Autumn/early Winter, such as:

Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance which is usually held at Queens Cross Church, Aberdeen. A virtual version of this was recorded and released through social media. A professional cameraman was hired and the final product is very pleasing, with – 3,700 Facebook hits. 140 accessed the Service via NHSG YouTube – there are normally 60-80 people attending in person. Service was led by Carole Clarke, Healthcare Chaplain and Mark Rodgers assisted. Positive feedback received.

Annual Candle Service which is the Service for parents whose children have died in Neo natal Unit or RACH. Permission was obtained to read out their name. This service has been recorded and will be released via Social media on the day the in-person service in High Hilton church would usually have taken place, 1st Sunday in December.

The generic **Carol Service** will be recorded for release on the 3rd Sunday in December and will involve all Healthcare Chaplains from all sites. This will replace all the usual in-person carol services and carol singing that take throughout NHS Grampian units.

Mark mentioned that Corporate Communications have been very supportive and helpful and there may be virtual elements retained in the future, even as we hopefully transition back to in person events.

The following was raised in subsequent discussion; praise for Annual Service; the immense value brought to parents by the Candle Service – will parents feel an aspect missing when not collectively together at a virtual service?; Mark Rodgers confirmed that the Candle and SANDS Services will most likely revert back to in-person only but there is more mileage for a virtual adult memorial Service; it was acknowledged that there is a very emotional atmosphere at the Candle Service; Chair extended thanks to Chaplaincy team for their efforts to fulfil many individual needs during this time.

6. CCL Expansion into Moray and Shire by Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain.

Mark Rodgers explained that Evonne Llewellyn is a 50% CCL Volunteer Co-ordinator funded by Aberdeen City who started in August 2019. There have been 3 new volunteers trained for practices Feb/Mar 2020 and 7 new volunteers recently interviewed to deploy into Aberdeen City GP practices. Evonnes fixed term contract ends in August 2021 – and Mark Rodgers has been approaching Moray and Shire to see if they would like to be included. There is a TEAMS meeting due with Aberdeenshire Partnership with Mark Rodgers, Angela MacLeod and Kim Penman to get permanent funding.

Liz Tait explained Sean Coady, Head of Service, Acute, Elgin being aware of the request and confirmed that Moray has no Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Mark Rodgers spoke about Ian Pallett, Healthcare Chaplain, Dr Grays having no more capacity for CCL in Moray and that 8 out of 12 Aberdeen CCL volunteers sustained a virtually continuing CCL service providing a very cost effective way of providing CCL and getting into Primary Care.

7. National Scene by Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain.

In December 2019, some of the Chaplaincy team travelled to the Golden Jubilee (Beardsmore) Hospital in Glasgow for a Stakeholder event to unblock launching new Strategy document for Spiritual Care. There is a window before end March 2021 to have this agreed and launched by Scottish Government (before next Scottish Parliament elections.) This document will undoubtedly feature on SCC agenda in 2021. Strategy will be from 2021 – 2026. Jane Ewen and Mark Rodgers are hoping to co-ordinate an audit of Chaplaincy services using UKBHC audit tool in Summer/Autumn of 2021.

8. Bereavement Services by Flora Watson, Macmillan Nurse Consultant, Palliative Care (apologies given for todays meeting).

Yvonne Wright spoke about working with Flora Watson and Carole Clarke setting up Bereavement Hub - working with ED Dept and there is Endowment funding for leaflets which Flora can give update on at later date.

9. Sector News.

Mark Rodgers confirmed happy to reinstate Sector Reports – they save discussion time during meeting. Discussion was made of changing the Sector Report format template; Chair explained how the reports highlight challenges as well as successes and are useful without overloading executives – striking the right balance.

10. AOCB

10.1 Mark Rodgers anticipated that SCC will hold February 2021 virtual meeting on Teams unless there is rapid progress with regard to COVID-19; with aspiration to meet in person in May 2021. Use of Teams would be a better tool than VC-ing into meetings in future.

10.2 Liz Tait confirmed that this would be her last meeting and stressed how much she had enjoyed this Committee. Mark Rodgers paid tribute to Liz to put on record her incredible support and the deep appreciation and gratitude from the Chaplaincy team – hailing Liz a ‘Spiritual Care Champion’ - sentiments echoed by Chair and other SCC members.

Chair closed the meeting, wishing all a safe and Happy Christmas.

2021 Meeting Dates (all 2pm):

Thursday 4th February
Thursday 20th May
Thursday 16th September
Thursday 18th November

Format and venues to be confirmed

Meeting closed.