

## The Chair Shares

Dear Registrants and Members,

You may remember that in the Board Bulletin that followed the December Board meeting, I said that my aim was to send an update email between Board meetings. This is the first of those e-mails.

The eagle eyed of you will have noticed that we have not yet emailed out regarding your 2024 CPD return and 2025 fees. This is because we are renewing our website and payment software. In consultation with Janelle Kingham, the registration lead, we felt it was better to postpone the request until the work was completed and so provide a smoother and more efficient process. Once this work is done, we hope by early March, we will be writing to you to request your CPD summary so feel free to get those ready.

The next Board meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. With several new directors, as part of the meeting we will be both looking back at the journey the Board has been on to where it is today, as well as looking forward to how we continue to develop. Linking to the above, one aspect of reflection on our processes will include thinking about as the number of registrants grows whether we implement a staggered approach to CPD returns across the year. We are looking forward to Max Sesay the Accreditation Officer of the Professional Standards Association joining us and helping to be able to think through such issues.

Last week, Paul Nash and I attended the meeting of the Chaplaincy Forum for Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care in Health. It was good to be able to report that, thanks to the hard work of the Registrar and Registration Lead, we have worked through the backlog of applications. I was also pleased that, along with myself, a number of Board Directors contributed to the joint submission regarding Assisted Dying. The following points are shared as a summary of the meeting for information:

- The Forum was pleased to welcome Simon Betteridge as its next Independent Chair following a selection process held last year. The Forum thanked Mark Newitt for his service as Chair over the past 6 years and also thanked Simon Harrison for his contribution to the Forum over many years.
- NHS England shared information on the [NHS 10 Year plan engagement](#) that is ongoing and encouraged participation from the Healthcare Chaplaincy profession. The Forum noted the importance of chaplaincy engaging with consultations to try and get chaplaincy included in the 10 year plan that will be produced.
- Previously the Forum has identified a number of priorities relating to workforce issues. It was agreed to explore how issues of data (size of the profession) and updating job profiles could be addressed and if specific funding could be accessed to support these.

- The Forum noted that, in the run up to the meeting, members of the Forum had contributed to a Submission of Evidence to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee who are scrutinizing the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill submitting on behalf of a number of healthcare chaplaincy related bodies. The submission recognised that chaplains would have different view, but highlighted a need for:
  - the definition of “health professional” within the Bill to be widened,
  - funding so that the Bill does not add to the existing pressures on health and social care staff
  - for the Bill to recognise the importance of holistic multidisciplinary team working and provide for safe, high-quality, professionally delivered, pastoral, spiritual and religious care to be available for the dying, their friends and family, and health and social care staff.
- The UKBHC reported that they had worked through the backlog of applications caused by issues with the web-site. The web-site is currently being updated to enable a smoother and more streamlined registration process going forward.

Those of you who are CHCC members will be aware that, following their AGM, Neil Cockling has now taken over from Simon Harrison as president. As Neil and I are both new into role we have agreed that, over this coming year, we will meet regularly. We will discuss where we can work together and where, as is appropriate to the UKBHC as the registry body whose role is to keep patients safe, and a professional body whose role is to represent the needs of chaplains, there needs to be clear water. I also plan to meet with key representatives from the other main professional bodies who currently sit on the Board.



Sarah Crane  
Chair of UKBHC

