

## **Spiritual Care Committee Report to Grampian NHS Board**

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The Spiritual Care Committee is an advisory committee of the Board that offers guidance and support to the board on the delivery of spiritual care services to patients and staff across the organisation. The committee comes under HDL (2002) 76 Spiritual Care in NHS Scotland; updated guidance issued in 2009 states that Spiritual Care committees have a key role in the governance of a Board's spiritual care policy and implementation.

### **Purpose of Report**

This report provides the Board with an update on items discussed at the Spiritual Care Committee's recent staff and volunteer event in May 2023

### **Spiritual Care Committee Development**

In light of the post-pandemic pressures affecting staff groups and patients in the system and the work going on to revise board assurance structures, an engagement event was organised in May to reflect on the priorities of the Committee. The event, held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, was attended by staff and volunteers and provided an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the work of the spiritual care team across the health and social care system in NHS Grampian, from the core work of chaplaincy and the delivery of values based reflective practice (VBRP) support for staff and CCL (Chaplaincy Community Listening) service that is available to the public as a low level support contributing to wellbeing in Grampian. The day was supported by the NHS Grampian Communications Team and nursing leads.

Discussions also included how the role of spiritual care could develop in the future, in line with the NHS Grampian Annual Delivery Plan and Plan for The Future, whilst recognising the constraints of resource. Key themes emerged around:

- The need to raise awareness of the scope and remit of spiritual care services in NHS Grampian and enable a better understanding by Board members of the scope, reach, achievements and challenges of the team.
- How expertise and experience gained through the VBRP community of practice can help support staff in achieving objectives in the Annual Delivery Plan and the Plan for the Future
- developing the Spiritual Care committee to enable it to act as an effective and visible conduit in the board governance framework, between those delivering spiritual care (chaplaincy, nursing and others) and board members.
- considering the points above within the forthcoming national framework for spiritual care to refresh the focus and terms of reference of the Committee.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to acknowledge the importance of Spiritual Care both within health and care and for the well-being of staff and to note that its governance will be reviewed in the light of the recently published National Framework for Spiritual Care, with a report being provided to the Board on completion of the review.

**Amy Anderson**  
**Chair of Spiritual Care Committee**  
**May 2023**