

HUK Trustee Network: Notes from 14th March 2022

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the session with Greg Allen was postponed. The trustee network call continued as normal and broke into small breakout rooms to discuss the following topics:

- What are the current challenges facing hospice boards at the current time?
- How are you working with neighbouring hospice boards?
- How could the trustee network help?

Feedback from breakout room 1:

Current challenges

- Rebuilding finances and sustainability including risk to charitable donation from inflation in particular energy price increases
- Workforce including clinical recruitment and competing with NHS salary rises
- Integration/Collaboration across hospices and between hospices and the (emerging) H&SC system

The final point expressed in the question: 'who is driving this effort?'

Working with neighbouring hospices

- Difficult for independent organisations to cede any independence
- Benefit of interfacing with CCG/ICS with unified voice and on bigger scale as important as efficiency savings available
- Remind the 'system' how much hospices contribute (for example £40Million Portsmouth and IoW alone*)

(Hampshire and Isle of Wight Hospice Collaborative Flier attached)

How network could help

- Remind hospice boards that the challenges they face are generally common to all/most/may hospices i.e. presenting opportunities to share* ideas, initiatives, solutions
- Help to develop trust between hospices

(* Portsmouth/IoW CE advised that they are using the collaboration Memorandum of Understanding developed by Sussex Hospices rather than producing their own, we need more of this)

It was a good discussion greatly helped by the two CEs in the breakout group.

Feedback from breakout room 2:

Current challenges

- Working with other partners within health and social care

- Multiple entities working in palliative care is confusing and many say they provide palliative care but reality of services vary
- Other partners don't know what hospice's do or could offer
- Low rate of referrals
- Staffing – recruitment, retention and salaries are a real challenge
- How to retain engagement with progress and keeping informed is a real challenge for boards

Working with neighbouring hospices

- A number of hospices are coming together to look at how to maximise collective effectiveness
- It is often difficult to know where the boundaries are

How network could help

- Offering a picture of change to help others
- How others are getting the message out about what hospices do and could offer