

Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care Newsletter

Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

August 2016



The Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care is a unique resource for anyone working with sick children and their families.

We aim to support and encourage research and resourcing for multidisciplinary spiritual care.

If you think you could contribute to our Centre by adding a resource, writing a blog post or contributing to our research please contact bch-tr.cpsc@nhs.net

Take a look at our website to see more of our research and resources:

www.bch.nhs.uk/cpsc



@BCH_CPSC

The 'Multidisciplinary Paediatric Spiritual Care Module' run by the Birmingham Children's Hospital chaplaincy team has recently finished. In this newsletter, we let you know what happened on the module and reflect on what we've learned.

The Multidisciplinary Paediatric Spiritual Care module was aimed at any healthcare professional who works with children or young people and has an interest in how to care for them spiritually. The participants in the module came from a wide variety of backgrounds, including nursing, allied health care professionals, chaplains and administrative roles, and included staff from both hospitals and hospices.

The module began with an introduction to spirituality. At the beginning of the first day, each participant filled out a blank jigsaw with what they thought spirituality involves. Everyone then got a chance to look back and update their jigsaw at the end of the course to see what they had thought initially, and how their knowledge had grown.



The course covered both theoretical issues, such as child development theory and attachment theory, and practical experience, when participants were given the chance to shadow chaplains on the ward and do activities with children in hospital.

There were some interesting things that we found out from during the module. One is that there is a real mix of experience and knowledge among multidisciplinary healthcare disciplines about spirituality. Some people found that their teams were very supportive of spiritual care, while others found that there was little knowledge. It was encouraging to see so many people from different backgrounds interested and engaged in spiritual care.

At the beginning and end of the module we carried out a questionnaire to find out what level of knowledge each participant had before and after completing the module. We are hoping to analyse the data that we have collected and possibly write this up as a case study to look at the effectiveness of the teaching.

Multi faith Celebrate Project:

Raksha Bandhan—Hindu—
18th August



Janmashtami—Hindu— 25th
August

Full details of all these festivals and ideas for celebrating them are available [here](#).

Featured Article:

Parents should be closely involved in observing sick children's conditions, NHS urges doctors.

**Amy Packham—
Huffington Post**

This article describes recommendations for doctors and other healthcare professionals on how and why parents should be involved in observing their child in hospital, including the importance of listening to parents concerns about a child.

View full article [here](#).

Updates

Sally Nash, Director of Research at the CPSC, has published an article in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, entitled 'Message in a bottle: a comparative study of spiritual needs of children and young people in and out of hospital'. This paper discussed the results of asking children and young people to put their answer to the question 'what are the three biggest needs of children and young people?' into a bottle.



Nash, S. (2016) Message in a bottle: a comparative study of spiritual needs of children and young people in and out of hospital: *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 21:2, 116-127.

You can read the article [here](#) (subscription required).

Details of the message in the bottle activity are available [here](#).

Blog Posts

This month, Lorraine Beddard, a Teenage and Young Adult Clinical Liaison Nurse, writes about her experience of working with an 18 year old recovering from cancer, and how together they worked through the many changes that came with this journey.

Dr Emily Harrop, Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care at Helen and Douglas House, introduces a family she has worked with. Ana Todorovic has written an article about finding out during pregnancy that her baby was seriously ill, and the effect that support from a palliative care team and hospice had on her bereavement.

Upcoming events and training

Supporting Staff Accredited Module (Level 4 or 7)

Dates: 22 September, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 5 Dec

Venue: Birmingham Children's Hospital

Price: £300 (£250 without assessment)

This module will help people develop their skills in supporting healthcare staff in a range of contexts in relation to work based learning and development.

For more information, please email see our [website](#), or email paul.nash@bch.nhs.uk. For a booking form, please email: g.benson@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk.