

# Chaplains, Faith Communities and Belief Groups in a Scottish Context

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# Definitions

**Spiritual Care** is usually given in a one to one relationship, is completely person centred and makes no assumption about personal conviction or life orientation.

**Religious Care** is given in the context of shared religious beliefs, values, liturgies and lifestyle of a faith community.

**Spiritual care** is not necessarily religious. Religious care should always be spiritual.

Spiritual care might be said to be the umbrella term of which religious care is a part. It is the intention of religious care to meet spiritual need.

Guidance on Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy in the NHS In Scotland  
(Scottish Government 2009)

YOU KNOW, HOBBS, I CAN'T  
FIGURE OUT THIS DEATH STUFF.



WHY DID THAT LITTLE RACCOON  
HAVE TO DIE? HE DIDN'T  
DO ANYTHING WRONG.



HE WAS JUST LITTLE! WHAT'S  
THE POINT OF PUTTING HIM  
HERE AND TAKING HIM  
BACK SO SOON???



IT'S EITHER MEAN  
OR IT'S ARBITRARY,  
AND EITHER WAY  
I'VE GOT THE  
HEEBIE-JEEBIES.

WHY IS IT  
ALWAYS NIGHT  
WHEN WE  
TALK ABOUT  
THESE THINGS!

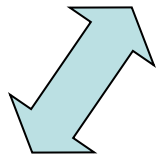


Scottish Government

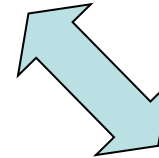


National Spiritual Care Development  
Committee

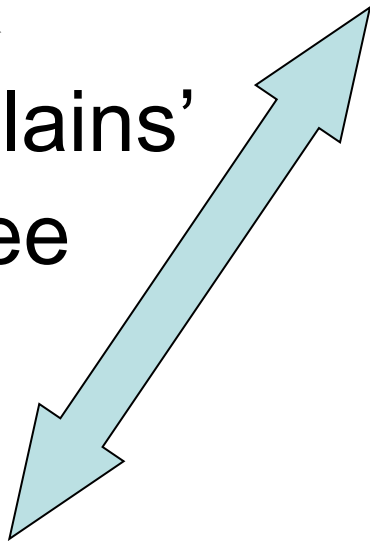
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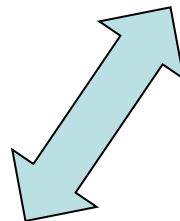
Lead Chaplains'  
Committee



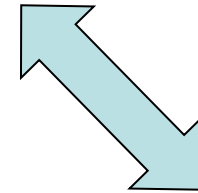
Chaplains'  
Training Dev. Gp



Chaplaincy  
Prof Bodies



Audit Gp



Research Gp

# Relationship of Faith Communities and Belief Groups with Chaplains in Sp Care Development

**Strategic Level** – National/health board level

## 1. Critical conversation partners

- National level: NES and Lead Chaplains – collaborative leadership - in conversation with Scottish Government driving development
- Health Board Level : part of local Sp Care Committees



*"Do you think of yourself as a spiritual person?"*

# Role of Faith Communities and Belief Groups in Sp Care

## Strategic Level

### 2. Collaborative Partners

#### National Level

- Development of Educational Resources  
eg *Multi-faith Resource for Healthcare Staff*  
(NES, 2006)
- Reflective resources  
eg collated sacred and secular poems, prayers  
and prose (NES and Scottish Gov. 2011)

# Chaplains and faith and belief groups

## Strategic Level

### **2. Collaborative Partners**

#### National Level

Moving model of sp care from crisis intervention to developing resilience and wellbeing

Eg Scottish Gov funding to dev community based listening services

# Role of Faith Communities and Belief Groups in Sp Care

## Operational Level (in Health Boards)

- Generic Chaplains employed directly by NHS (mainly but not all Christian – lay and ordained) – increasingly involved in non-religious/spiritual care
- RC Chaplaincy bought in
- Honorary Chaplains from all main faith traditions and belief groups where possible in specific health boards (incl. Humanist)

# Role of Faith Communities and Belief Groups in Sp Care

## Operational Level

- Chaplain refer patients, carers and staff with consent to faith communities or belief groups and vice versa
- Information Exchange and Educational Events – two way

# Appointing Generic Chaplains

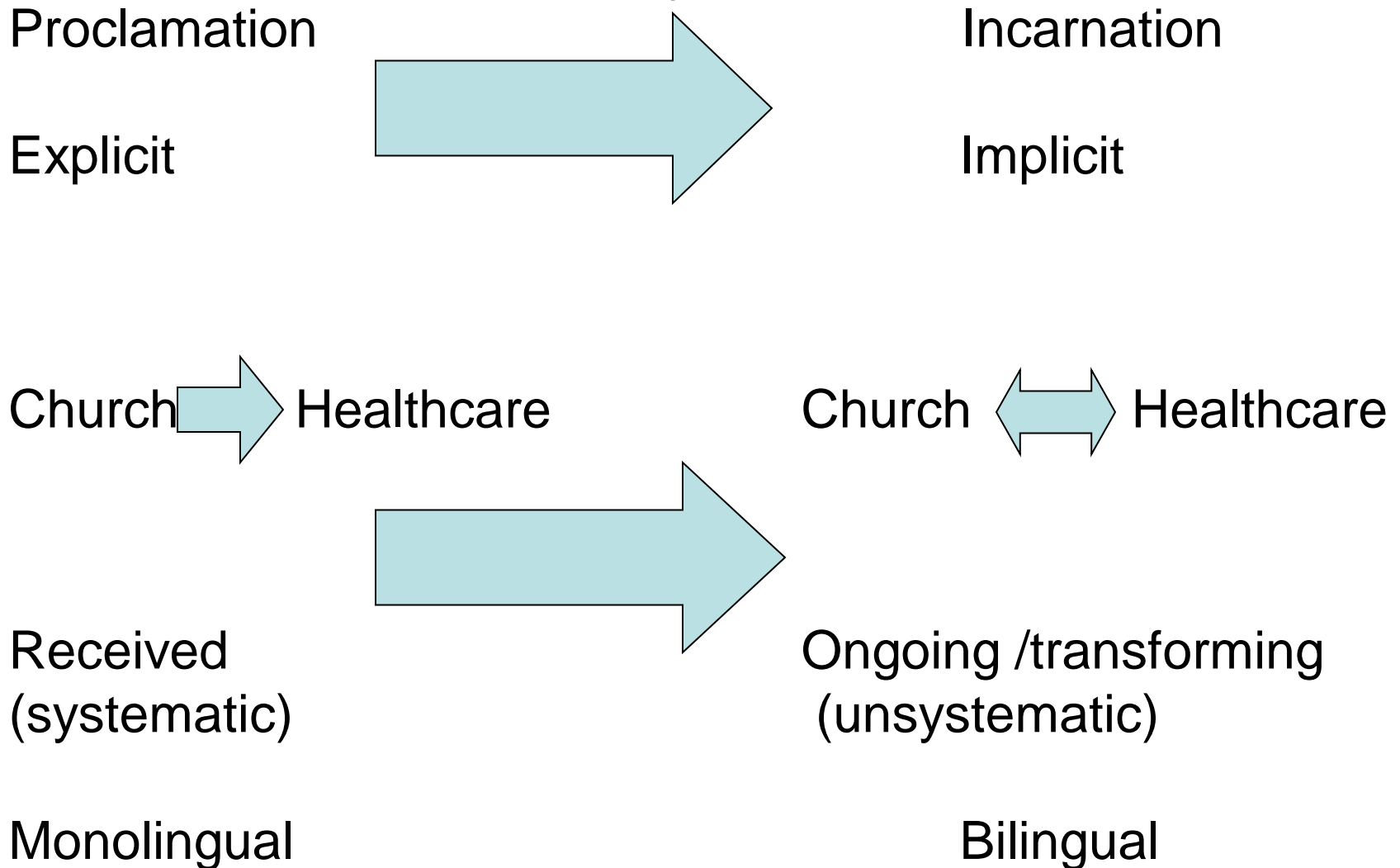
- No faith community representation on appointing committee
- Chaplaincy advisor
- Healthcare manager and senior healthcare professional(s)

# Appointing Generic Chaplains

## Appointment Requires:

- Theological/religious studies education
- Good standing with faith community/belief group – live spiritual practice /rootedness /support
- Post-grad Cert in Healthcare Chaplaincy (or willingness to complete)
- Ability and competency to provide sp care

# Theological Developments in Chaplaincy in Scotland



# Shedding the armour of professional facade

