**ABSCo Regional meeting – 10/09/2019 – Royal Trinity Hospice**

Attendees: Sharon Cornford (ABSCo Chair, Paul Parsons (ABSCo treasurer, St Christophers Hospice), St Joseph’s Hospice), Letiza Perna-Forest (ABSCo Development Officer, Royal Trinity Hospice), Claire Collins (Joint Regional Rep LSE, Marie Curie Hampstead Hospice), Ella Williams (Joint Regional Rep LSE, St Wilfrid’s Hospice), Susan Daniell (North London Hospice)

Apologies: Aideen O’Hagan, Alison Gwynne-Jones, Jane Catto

1. **Welcome and introduction**

Minutes of last meeting were read and agreed.

Future meetings discussed - next Tuesday, 3 December 2019: St Luke’s - topic TBC

1. **Update from Executive**

Sharon Cornford gave an update from last Executive Meeting:

* Continuing link with Hospice UK to develop Compassionate Communities toolkit
* NBA will resume activities in October
* Finances are healthy – agreed to run on small deficit budget for a short number of years; training budget increased; conference ran on small profit; expenditure on ABSCo Audit was one-off.
* Conference attendance was healthy; evaluations are being processed; update at next Executive Meeting
* Theme of Conference 2020 will be Volunteers
* Large strategic survey with Hospice UK planned in order to look at what each hospice is providing; how it functions; how it is staffed

1. **Updates and discussion:**

Attendance at regional meetings: Discussed possible barriers to attendance of meetings – it was agreed to send an email to London and South East in order to gather information. Short deadline of one week for response. If there is no response, members will be contacted by LSE Executive members by telephone.

Paul Parsons (PP) gave an update on Help Points:

* Keele University Impact Study with St Giles, St Christopher’s, Hospice of the Good Shepherd and Sobell House has been delayed due to funding issues, which should be resolved soon. A steering group has been set up with service users, help point volunteers and referrers.
* With help from PP, 7 Hospices successfully applied for and received funding
* Other similar services are in the process of converting the Help Point brand
* Discussions will continue regarding sustainability of the projects post-initial funding and sources of alternative funding will be sought if hospices cannot assume the cost
* PP helped a small local charity to source funding which was then split between the two organisations
* Help Points are being used as ‘holding’ referral for clients on wait-lists
* Current locations for Help Points include: Carers’ Centre, Church, Library, Homeless Shelter, GP Surgery, Supermarket, Sports Centre

1. Grief Awareness Week 2nd December 2019
2. ABSCo Audit Tool:

Sharon Cornford and Jonathan Hartley are meeting next week to explore next steps, which will possibly include update on: which hospices have completed survey; which are planning to complete it soon; what barriers exist to completing; what further support is needed.

Hospices will be encouraged to send in Statement and summary of meeting standards.

If hospices work towards completing the standards, there can be a subsequent focus on collecting evidence during the year.

Those who have completed audits are encouraged to send them in.

Encourage use of forum for sharing infor.

* Consider ‘buddying’ scheme in the regions.
* Have a permanent focus on audit in regional meetings.
* Work towards independent review of services by matching hospices.

1. **Any other Business:**
2. Letizia PF gave an update on virtual reality research which Trinity is taking part in. The technology has great potential for patient use and also training purposes.
3. Paul P enquired about what carer assessment tools are in use by members – AHC and CSNAT.
4. **Topic**: **Self-care and Resilience Building**

Members discussed pressures of work and impact of increasing caseloads. Possible ways which referrals could be managed included: attending MDTs in order to pose questions around risk and address ‘inappropriate’ referrals; encouraging staff to carry out risk assessments before referrals to BS are made (nurse and social-worker); follow-up bereavement calls being shared with nurses; using research to evidence best practice of appropriate follow-up timescales.

**Next regional meeting: ~~Tuesday 3rd December 2019~~ Wednesday, 18th March 2020 11.00-15.00**

**Venue: ~~St Luke’s Hospice~~ St Joseph’s Hospice**

**Host: ~~Julie Smart~~ Sharon Cornford**

**Topic:** **TBC – suggested capturing and using demographic data/audit update**