

The Introduction of Spiritual, Pastoral and Religious Care (SPaRC) Champions



Responding to the Voices of patients, carers, families and staff

- Anecdotal evidence, Feedback from staff, carers and patients

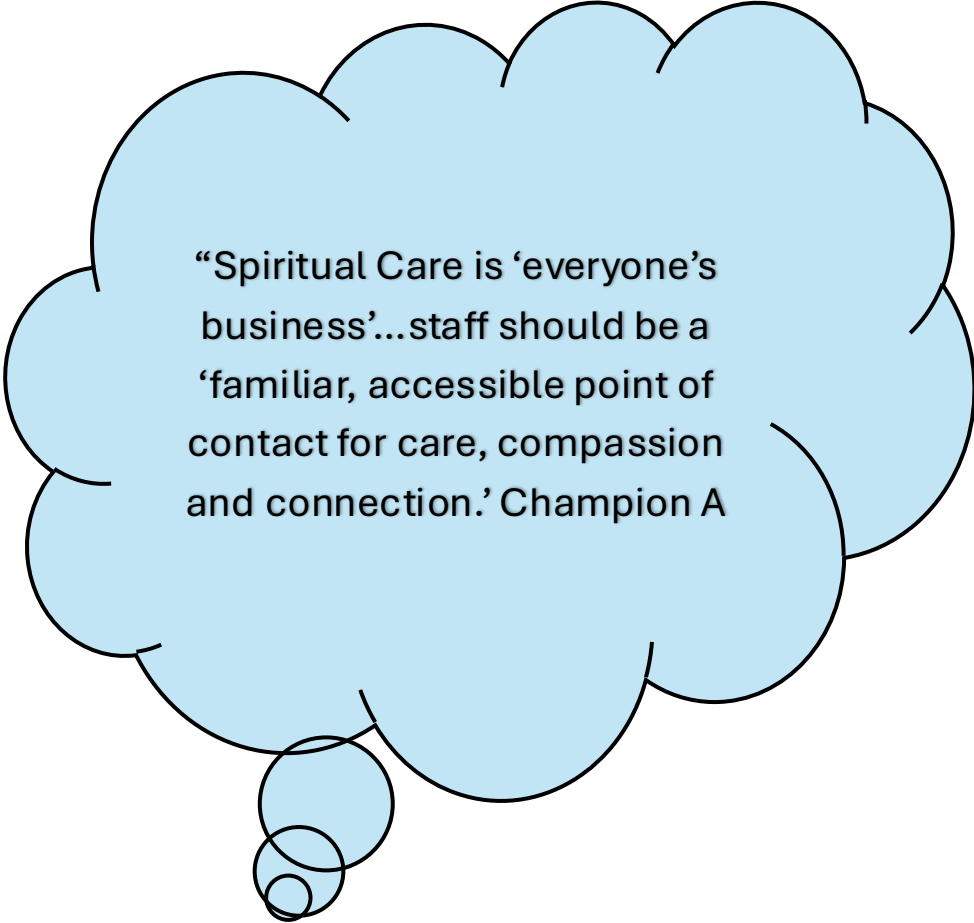
I didn't know this existed and I was just very, very lucky that my husband was put on a ward close to here, otherwise I would not have found it...My husband does not believe in God but it's not about that, it's about being somewhere together, just to ...let it all out really.

Audit in 2025-2026

- Demonstrated that Spiritual Care was not routinely documented within patients' plans of care.
- Were the following data items recorded in the Care Plan (n=54)?

	Number (%) of Cases
What are your spiritual/ religious beliefs?	3 (6%)
Is belief spirituality important to you?	0 (0%)
Are you connected to a faith centre in the community?	2 (4%)
How can I support your spiritual beliefs	0 (0%)

OUR AIM



“Spiritual Care is ‘everyone’s business’...staff should be a ‘familiar, accessible point of contact for care, compassion and connection.’ Champion A

To help support staff recognise the significance and positive impact of Spiritual, Pastoral and Religious Care (SPaRC) on a patient's care pathway.

To help ensure spiritual care is available to everyone and advocate for and with patients for accessible, quality, timely and consistent SPaRC.

The process

1. The Nomination of SPaRC Champions
2. The Establishment of a Learning Agreement
- 3 a. The Introduction of SPaRC Champions to the ward/department.
- 3 b. Training and E-Learning



**Enhancing Nurses' and
Midwives' Competence in
Providing Spiritual Care
through Innovative Education
and Compassionate Care**

5. Bespoke SPaRC Actions
6. Debrief, Reflection & Continued Learning
7. Dissemination of Good Practice

Measuring Impact & Early indicators

- Improved visibility of SPaRC
- Stronger Interdisciplinary Working
- More confidence in Raising and Referring Spiritual Care needs
- There is also the growing recognition that SPaRC is relevant to patients regardless of religious belief.



The difference a SPaRC Champion makes

“Seeing the positive difference that support can make is the best part of being a Champion.”

“The programme has helped open up conversations about caring for the whole person, not just treating a physical condition”.

Victoria Winsor, Discharge Facilitator AMU



Key Learning

- **The importance of spiritual care to patients**
- **Invest in staff awareness.**
- **Build Interdisciplinary relationships**
- **Support confidence**
- **Allow time for Impact**
- **Encourage & Support Bespoke Actions**
- For example:
- Embed within organisational frameworks e.g Care Excellence Framework (CEF)
- Advocate for prompts in care planning documentation
- Include SPaRC question(s) as part of a ward's admission checklists