

Our ref: PMP/ams

28 July 2014

Mr P Smith  
Coroner's Officer  
HM Coroner's Office  
The Court House  
Woburn Street  
Amphill  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 2HX

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By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Smith

**Inquest touching the death of Essa SHAH  
Inquest held on 21st May 2014 at Coroner's Court, Amphill**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, in response to the death of Essa Shah.

The Trust has considered the following matter of concern:

- 1) That the literature, setting out the dangers of co-sleeping which the hospital hand to new mothers being discharged, is only available in the English language.

At present, women are given two leaflets that advise of the dangers of co-sleeping: upon transfer from the Delivery Suite to the ward they are given a "Caring for your Baby at Night" leaflet published by UNICEF as part of their Feeding Pack; upon discharge from the ward to home, they are given the "Reduce the Risk of Cot Death" created by the Department of Health but now printed by the Trust as the Department of Health (DoH) have ceased to produce it.

In addition to leaflets, the Trust has produced a video, in three languages (English, Polish and Urdu) which is available on the Trust's website and on DVD. The video includes a section about discharge and caring for your baby at home. The video was produced in response to a consultation with local communities who told us that whilst it was common for women to speak their mother tongue, they were often unable to read it.

The Community Midwives have prompt sheets to ensure that safe sleeping practices are discussed with women face to face and they will shortly be equipped with iPads to facilitate communication with anyone who is uncertain as to what they are being told verbally.

The Trust is unable to facilitate the translation of the Department of Health leaflet, which is only available in English, due to the considerable practical and financial implications. As the

DoH no longer produces this leaflet, we are not able to approach them for their assistance. However, UNICEF produce a leaflet called "Sharing a bed with your baby" which is available in 11 languages, three of which are relevant to the population we serve. The Trust will now ensure Feeding Packs are created containing this leaflet in Bengali, Punjabi and Urdu; the leaflet is not available in Polish so we will continue to use the video we have produced and verbal communication.

We hope this addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely



**Pauline Philip**  
**Chief Executive Officer**