



GIG
CYMRU
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Ein cyfl/Our ref:

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:

Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:

Ffacs/Facsimile:

E-bost/E-mail:


Dyddiad/Date:



24th September 2014

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB


Solicitor for H.M Senior Coroner,
Coroner's Office,
Town Hall,
Milford Haven,
Pembrokeshire,
SA73 3JW

Dear Sir

Re: Inquest regarding the death of John Keith William Shelley

I write further to your letter of 31st July 2014, pursuant to Regulation 28 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

In terms of the issues raised in your letter we believe it would assist to differentiate between professionally qualified staff and support workers.

Firstly, we have programs in place to train all our professionally qualified staff in Immediate Life Support/Basic Life Support training which comprises the recognition and response to the acutely unwell patient and includes response to cardiac arrest.

Moving on to the second group of staff, our Healthcare Support Workers, who comprise the majority of the staff employed in this residential unit; they have not routinely been trained in Basic Life Support or "first aid". Although if this had been requested and subject to capacity, this could be undertaken. This has been because the focus of the Simulation & Resuscitation Team has been to deliver training directly to all clinical staff annually within the Health Board. Risk assessments approved by the Health Board Resuscitation Committee have resulted in prioritising the training to high risk areas.

However, since this tragic event all the staff in the residential units have been trained in Basic Life Support.

In terms of moving further forwards, we have also looked at other options which may be available for healthcare support staff, where this would be appropriate. We are evaluating options for training these staff groups to target "life threatening conditions". We feel that a specifically targeted approach to life threatening conditions will provide the best type cover and will be more specific than a generalised first aid course. This course will include recognition & response to life threatening conditions i.e. heart attack, choking, serious bleeding including cardiac arrest and is recognised by The British Heart Foundation.

We will be taking a risk based approach to determine which staff will require this level of training, which will include if they will be working unsupervised i.e. without the direct support of trained clinical staff.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Karen Howell
Chief Executive