

Medical Directorate
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

28 January 2015

Mr S Faulks
The Coroners Service
Town Hall
Albert Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 2QJ

Dear Mr Faulks

Inquest into the death of Kirk Williams

Further to your letter dated 14 November 2014 and the issue of the *Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths*, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Kirk Williams regarding his death.

From our review and consideration, we note that the issues concerning substance misuse and possible mental health issues have been addressed in the responses from the local health care Commissioners and Trusts. However, in view of the serious nature of this case, I will be considering it further with NHS England's Northern Regional Medical Director, [REDACTED] with a view to determining whether changes need to be made to relevant current policies and guidance. This will also include liaison with colleagues in Public Health England, with regard to commissioning and provision of substance misuse services.

Furthermore, it is acknowledged that South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust, the CCGs and North East ambulance Service, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust have all signed up to the Crisis Care Concordat, to support people in crisis.

The Crisis Care Concordat is a national commitment between all services and agencies that come into contact with people in crisis. It sets out how they will work together and be involved in the care and support of people in crisis, and how they ensure people get

the support they need, when they need it. This commitment addresses the improvement in the commissioning and provision of services for those with co-existing mental health and substance misuse issues. One of the aims of the Crisis Care Concordat is that people in health care crisis should be taken to health care facilities, rather than police cells.

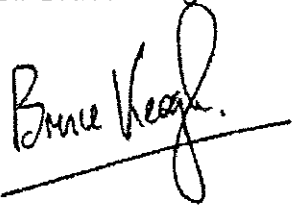
The key ambition of the Concordat is for every local area to commit to, agree and deliver their own Mental Health Crisis Declaration and Action Plan.

As one of the signatories to the Crisis Care Concordat, NHS England is committed to working alongside other agencies to improve the system of care and support for people in crisis, to work together to identify the causes of crises, and put in place prevention and early intervention plans whenever possible.

I am grateful to you for bringing this case to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Sir Bruce Keogh

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Keogh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Bruce Keogh, KBE, MD, DSc, FRCS, FRCP
National Medical Director
NHS England