

West Park Hospital
Edward Pease Way
Darlington
DL2 2TS

- 2 FEB 2015

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Your Ref. [REDACTED]

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

30 January 2015

Andrew Tweddle LL.B.,
HM Senior Coroner for County Durham and Darlington,
H.M. Coroners Office,
PO Box 282,
Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham,
DL14 4FY.

Dear Mr. Tweddle,

Geraldine Liege Kilborn deceased - HMP Low Newton, Durham

I thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2014, enclosing a Regulation 28 report following the inquest into the death of Ms Liege Kilborn in HMP, Low Newton.

The Trust is always keen to learn lessons and take all possible steps to prevent such deaths in the future. The Trust does reflect on practices and procedures and has explored the systems in place at the time of the death of Ms Liege Kilborn – those systems have and will continue to be improved. The coronial feedback assists in that improvement process.

- 1. There was a breakdown in sharing of information known to the Mental Health Team, with other members of the ACCT review. It is vital that in an appropriate case where a prisoner is on an ACCT and has had substantial mental health input that members of the Mental Health Team attend the relevant ACCT reviews and their opinions are given sufficient weight.**

The issue you have highlighted is appreciated. It is vital that all parties involved in the care of a prisoner communicate well and have the opportunity to contribute to care planning. This is particularly relevant with prisoners who are suffering from mental health problems.

Regarding availability of staff, TEWV have already made changes to the availability of the Mental Health Team staff over the weekend. Staff are on duty between 9.30 am – 12.30pm Saturday and Sunday, with a priority role to ensure that the relevant ACCT reviews are attended and that those women in crisis are offered support. The ACCT Case Manager would also have access to an on-call Mental Health Manager. This

ensures that they would be able to provide a meaningful contribution to any ACCT review taking place, even on a weekend.

We have also completed the following action to ensure proper and timely communication between prison wing staff and Mental Health Team members: the Mental Health Team Manager attends both the daily healthcare and Governor's morning meeting to ensure pertinent issues are discussed. A deputy will also attend the healthcare meeting if the MHT manager is not available e.g. on leave.

Since the death of Ms Kilborn the use of multi-disciplinary meetings has increased for those prisoners with complex care and risk needs. This is a proactive approach as, through the multi-disciplinary discussion, all issues can be addressed and understood, problems can be appropriately debated and consensus decisions reached. This therefore enables the Mental Health Team to contribute appropriately to the ACCT process.

- 2. Witnesses confirmed that they often did not read much of the ACCT document prior to the ACCT review and relied more upon the input of the other attendees who might know the prisoner and upon the face to face assessment of the prisoner at the time.**

This is a very helpful observation. We agree that both the interview and the past information are important in making any decisions about a prisoner's care plan.

This relevant point was discussed at our clinical governance meeting and staff meetings within the Mental Health Team. It is also part of the ACCT training delivered to all the staff working in the Mental Health Team. Staff were reminded to read all the relevant information in the ACCT document and on System One notes.

In complex cases, we endeavour to provide consistent attendance to the ACCT reviews from the Mental Health Team in the form of an identified named nurse, who is well informed about the prisoner. If that is not possible, we will ensure that the Mental Health Team member attending the ACCT review would have detailed knowledge about the prisoner's presentation and mental health difficulties. In cases where we are unable to attend we would make sure that the relevant information is shared with the ACCT team members making the necessary decisions. The Mental Health Team have access to the Safer Custody electronic diary and on a daily basis planned ACCT reviews are diarised accordingly on System One.

TEWV has been awarded a new contract for the provision of mental health services into the local prisons and this will be in full service from 1 April 2015. The current arrangements for the interface with prison staff is therefore under review and we shall fully incorporate all the findings from the inquest into any new arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Barkley
Chief Executive