



**Thomas R Osborne  
Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton**

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <p><b>Ms Pauline Philip The Chief Executive Luton &amp; Dunstable Hospital Lewsey Road Luton LU4 0DZ</b></p> <p><b>Ms Sally Morris The Chief Executive South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) Trust Head Office The Lodge Runwell Chase Wickford Essex. SS11 7XX</b></p>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b></p> <p>I am Thomas R Osborne, Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b></p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7</a> <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</a></p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b></p> <p>On 19 August 2016 I commenced an Investigation into the death of <b>Jean Marjorie McHALE</b> aged 88 years . The Investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on 13 December 2016. The conclusion of the inquest was a narrative that she had died from Sepsis from infected pressure ulcers.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>The deceased was admitted to the Luton &amp; Dunstable Hospital on 9 July 2016</p>

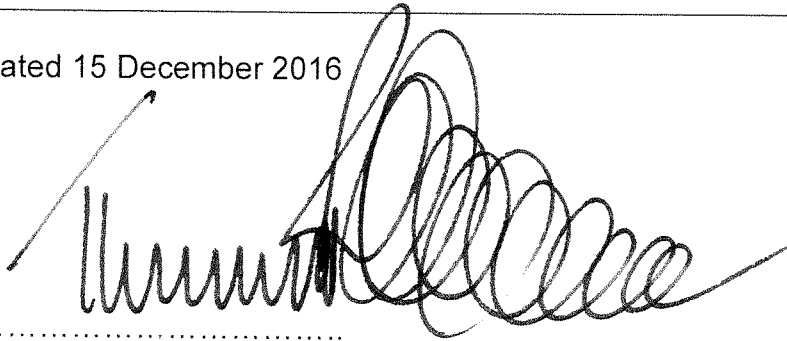
	<p>following confusion, fever and generally unwell. She had 2 large pressure sores (Grade 4) present on the sacral region. After thorough discussion with microbiology she underwent multiple antibiotic therapy for 5 weeks; her condition unfortunately failed to improve. Her Daughter stated that her mother was discharged from Hospital in April 2016 with Grade 2 Pressure Sores and arranged for nurses to visit. The deceased was seen by the Community Nurses and Carers on a daily basis.</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER'S CONCERNS</b></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In that the number of tissue viability nurses both in the hospital and in the community is limited. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) That if pressure ulcers are not treated appropriately then the elderly in the community will suffer, develop Osteomyelitis leading to Sepsis and death.</li> <li>(2) That there are not enough Tissue Viability Nurses working in the community or in the hospital to meet the needs of the patients</li> <li>(3) An urgent review is necessary.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you as Chief Executive have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by <b>9 February 2017</b>. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES and PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons</p> <p>Daughter - <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span></p>

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

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Dated 15 December 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas R Osborne', with a large, stylized flourish at the end. An arrow points from the signature towards the date '15 December 2016'.

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**THOMAS R OSBORNE**  
Senior Coroner  
Bedfordshire and Luton

