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County Hall
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Sent via email: coroner@essex.gov.uk

12th April 2017

Dear Mrs Beasley-Murray,

Re: Regulation 28: Report to prevent Future Deaths – Mr Dean Saunders, HMP Chelmsford

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report which was issued on Friday 17 February 2017 following the inquest into the sad death of Dean Saunders, who died at HMP Chelmsford on 4 January 2016. I would like to express my deep sympathy to Mr. Saunders' family.

In your Regulation 28 Report you have raised two concerns for NHS England which are addressed in the responses below.

Concern 2: For NHS England and SEPT - The absence of a written record of the "best practice" forensic pathway referred to by [REDACTED] in his evidence, and consideration of whether the transfer of individuals such as Dean to prison is indeed "best practice", taking into account the consequent delay in transfer and the suitability of the prison environment for mentally disordered individuals.

The following information describes the commissioning arrangements for healthcare for someone being held in police custody.

Police custody healthcare at Basildon is commissioned by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and is provided by G4S who are responsible for assessing people as being fit to be detained, interviewed and charged, where requested to by custody officer.

NHS England commission South Essex Partnership Trust to provide Liaison and Diversion (L & D) services for Essex, which includes Basildon Police Station. Where police custody staff have a concern around an individual's vulnerabilities, a referral is made to the L & D service who will assess and identify any mental

health, learning disability, substance misuse and/or other treatment services to provide options to divert from or work alongside other criminal justice interventions.

The decision to remand someone to prison is made by the courts and, if required, will be informed by an assessment of their current presenting health and vulnerabilities. In this case, the decision to remand Mr Saunders to HMP Chelmsford was made by Basildon Magistrates Court.

The NHS England Liaison and Diversion Standard Service Specification 2015 (attached at Appendix A for information) outlines that the service provider will develop care pathways with identified local health and social care services in partnership with key stakeholders, including community rehabilitation companies, drug action teams and local mental health providers, and other service providers.

Concern 5: For NHS England - The resilience of psychiatric cover at Chelmsford prison, which would need to be raised with NHS England who commission such services and decide on budget.

NHS England commissions healthcare in prisons using an outcomes-based service specification. NHS England (Midlands and East) is responsible for the performance management of the healthcare contract. The provider, Care UK, is required to submit quarterly data on a range of qualitative and activity-based key performance indicators.

NHS England (Midlands and East region) has considered the resilience of the psychiatric care service at HMP Chelmsford, a category B local prison. Care UK are the current providers of mental health services at HMP Chelmsford and deliver a total of 5 sessions of psychiatry per week for a population of 710 men. A health needs assessment was conducted in 2016 by an independent author who concluded that the overall provision of psychiatry cover at HMP Chelmsford meets the needs of the population. The Health Needs Assessment is provided at Appendix B

At the time that Mr Saunders was in HMP Chelmsford the regular psychiatrist was on annual leave. A cover psychiatrist saw Mr Saunders and provided the first signature for the document which would have supported his transfer to a secure mental health placement. Due to the regular prison psychiatrist's leave there was a five day delay in obtaining the required second signature for the Mental Health Assessment document.

This was followed up by NHS England commissioners with Care UK who informed the commissioners that it had circulated a document to all staff which provides details of the names and contact details of medical staff who can sign Mental Health Assessment documents. This will ensure that there are no further recurrences of delays in completing the required documentation and transfers.

In addition, from 27 May 2017, a new provider will be delivering healthcare at HMP Chelmsford. The new provider is a local mental health provider and the psychiatry service will be supported by a wider service than currently offered,

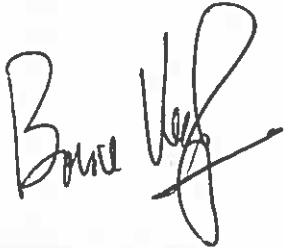
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providing greater access to a pool of psychiatrists who could provide signatures if required.

We acknowledge the concerns you have expressed and hope that this response provides confirmation that those concerns are being addressed in national policy or practice.

I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Keogh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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