REGULATION 28 REPORT ON ACTION TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: Northampton Borough Council Northampton County Council

1 CORONER

I am Hassan Shah, Assistant Coroner for the Coroner Area of Northamptonshire.

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On the 9th November 2016 an investigation was commenced into the death of Vadims ALEKSEJEVS (31). The investigation concluded by way of inquest on 1st March 2017. The medical cause of death was 1a) Synthetic cannabinoid toxicity, alcohol intoxication and hypothermia. A narrative conclusion was given as follows:-

On the balance of probability, the synthetic cannabinoid use in conjunction with alcohol are the likely causes of death, exacerbated by the outdoor location and cold temperatures. The susceptibility to hypothermia would be increased by alcohol intoxication and all three factors are likely to have been significant, probably acting together.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

The deceased had been living in a tent for about one year after having become homeless. On Tuesday 8^{th} November 2016 he had been consuming alcohol during the course of the day. Alcohol had increasingly become a problem since he became homeless. At around 9-10pm he was seen to take 3 puffs of a rolled up cigarette, suspected to contain 'Mamba', a synthetic form of cannabis. The cigarette had been passed to him by a young male who also lived on the campsite. At around 8-8.30 am on Wednesday 9^{th} November 2016 the deceased was found outside on a path lying face down and unresponsive. He was pronounced deceased by paramedics at 10.11am the same day. In addition to synthetic cannabinoid and alcohol, hypothermia was a significant factor.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

- 1) There are "lots of people" living on this campsite. At the time of the deceased's death there were 7 tents containing Latvian, Polish and other nationals.
- 2) The circumstances of this case may present themselves again over winter.
- 3) It is not known if adult social care or addiction services provide any form of outreach service to the homeless.
- 4) It is not known if the campsite houses other vulnerable individuals, such as children or the elderly.
- 5) It is unclear if there are any other housing options available or indeed if there is

	any statutory duty to house vulnerable individuals living on such campsites.
6	ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
	In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you AND/OR your organisation, have the power to take such action.
7	YOUR RESPONSE
	You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 28 th April 2017. I, the Assistant Coroner, may extend the period.
	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.
8	COPIES and PUBLICATION
	I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons: Brother of deceased
	Similarly, you are 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.
9	[DATE] [SIGNED BY CORONER], 3 rd March 2017