

Our Ref: SA/jw

22 November 2017

Trust Headquarters
Swandean
Arundel Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN13 3EP

Mr James Healy-Pratt
Assistant Coroner for East Sussex
HM Coroner's Office
31 Station Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1RG

Email: 

Dear Mr Healy-Pratt

Re: Inquest into the death of Ms Sabrina Walsh

I write in further response to your Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths of 14 July 2017. I am grateful to you for allowing us the opportunity to consult with interested parties and take a national steer in relation to installing CCTV to corridors and communal areas of Woodlands Acute Care Unit.

Our consultation with patients/families and staff, has provided varying feedback. Of note was the range of differing opinion. The consistent feedback from the majority of patients was the concern that they would be watched; some expressing the belief that the presence of CCTV may increase feelings of paranoia. At the opposite end of the range, was a small group of patients whose perception was that the installation of CCTV may make them feel safer.

The carers/families rather mirrored this feedback, whereas the staff, on the whole, were not in favour. Notably, they highlighted the need to resource the viewing of the CCTV and were of the opinion that that resource could alternatively be used to enhance the engagement of patients.

The national steer from NHS England (which I'm aware is being forwarded directly to you), now states that CCTV would be advisable in the areas where people enter the unit and the main pathways in. However, it would not be advisable to have intrusive cameras in everyday areas such as common living areas shared by patients.

As a result of the information we now have available to us, I confirm that the Trust is in the process of implementing the installation of CCTV in the entrance areas of all our Acute Inpatient/PICU wards, which is a total of 12 sites, including Woodlands.

Interim Chair: Richard Bayley

Chief Executive: Samantha Allen

Head office: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Swandean, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3EP

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I trust that the contents of this letter and the action the Trust is taking is of assurance to you, but I would welcome any additional comments or feedback you may have that would further assist us in improving the services that we provide to our patients and their families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Allen', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Allen
Chief Executive