



Department  
of Health

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care and Mental Health

Our reference: PFD-1097287  
Your reference: CEM/GA/02241-2016

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Mrs Dianne Hocking  
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31 October 2017

Dear Mrs Hocking

Thank you for your letter of 6 September to the Secretary of State about the death of Master Brandon Singh Rayat. I have been asked to respond.

I was very saddened to read of the circumstances surrounding Brandon's death. Please pass my condolences to his family and loved ones. This is a truly tragic case and I appreciate this must be a very difficult time for them.

Your Report raises concerns that there is no provision of mental health care for children in Leicestershire who, due to their anxiety, are unable to attend hospital for treatment. You mention that there is a crisis team for children but that you have been informed that it cannot fulfil the function of long term treatment.

This very sad case highlights the need for local services that can cater for varying needs at different points in the care pathway.

The provision of local health services is a matter for local determination. However, I can explain the work we are undertaking to transform children and young people's mental health and improve access to high quality services for all children and young people that need them. We are working with partners across the system to embed these principles so that commissioners from across health, social care and education are able to build an improved local support offer.

This work is supported by £1.4 billion of additional investment from 2015/16 to 2020/21. In 2015/16, local areas came together to develop joint agency Local Transformation Plans that set out the local priorities for investment. These were signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards and 123 plans were published covering the whole country. Local areas are asked each year to refresh and republish these plans.

As part of the focus to improve access and reduce unwarranted variation in the quality of help, NHS England is developing a new national generic pathway for children and young people's mental health. This is expected to be published shortly. This will set out the key functions and competences that commissioners and providers should consider across the whole pathway – from when children and young people first seek help, to routine treatment and the support for those children and young people with more challenging and intensive needs.

I am advised that the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) responded to you on 6 October.

You will therefore be aware that the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland CCGs commission a range of CAMHS to meet different levels of need. This includes outpatient and community services and the recent introduction of a new Crisis and Home Treatment service that became fully operational in April 2017.

The CCG confirmed that both these services are able to provide home visits and, in the case of the new Crisis and Home Treatment service, there is now a home treatment team dedicated to undertaking home treatment.

Learning lessons where things have gone wrong is essential to ensuring the NHS provides safe, high quality care. The CCG has provided assurance that the death of Brandon was subject to a Serious Incident investigation by the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, as well as a multi-agency case review commissioned by the Leicester City Safeguarding Board. An improvement plan will be put in place with appropriate monitoring by the CCG, Trust and Safeguarding Board.

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for bringing the circumstances of Brandon's death to our attention.



**JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE**