

This matter is being dealt with by:

██████████

Reference:

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**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Private and Confidential

To be opened by addressee only

Mr McNamara
Assistant Coroner
HM Coroner for Nottinghamshire
The Council House
Old Market Square
Nottingham NG1 2DT

Dear Mr McNamara

12th February 2018

**Re: In the matter of the death of RYAN JAMES VOUT
Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths**

We write on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council ("the Council") in response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued on 18 December 2017 ("the PFD Report").

The Council has carefully considered the PFD Report and in particular the matters of concern raised by the Coroner and would respond to these specific concerns as follows:

(1) The lack of a co-ordinated discharge from in-patient psychiatric care into the community, in particular the failure of appropriate professionals from hospital and community to liaise and for family to be informed as a pre-requisite for discharge;

The Council's response:

There is an established multi-disciplinary process for referring from the hospital ward to the social care Community Mental Health Teams. This ensures that a person is considered for social care services to assist with safe discharge. People who are eligible for s117 aftercare services and who need follow up services in the community are also subject to an assessment to consider joint responsibility for funding and services between the Local Authority (LA) and the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

(2) The inability to pre-arrange attendance of an ambulance when police officers exercise a s.135 (1) MHA Act 1983 warrant;

The Council's response

The current process in place for an AMHP to call EMAS to arrange for an ambulance in this situation is to call after the assessment is completed. The response time should be one hour.

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As EMAS response times have been taking longer, the general issue of how to improve conveyance and ambulance provision for Mental Health Act work has been escalated to the Crisis Concordat Task and Finish Group and has also been discussed with health commissioners via the East Midlands Local Authority Mental Health Leads Networks.

The Crisis Concordat work is exploring whether the Trust could provide a separate dedicated conveyance service for people detained under the Mental Health Act. This would allow the AMHPs to pre-book an ambulance for the purposes of s135 (1). Discussions are underway about how this could be commissioned and funded.

Due to further recent significant demand for EMAS services over the winter period, the lead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Commissioners for the EMAS contract are currently exploring, (with advise from the Nottinghamshire County Council AMHP team), an interim solution utilising short term winter pressures money. The aim is to identify a rapid solution that avoid delays for all organisations and protects the patient, until the above work is completed.

(3) The lack of formality to the ‘briefing’ or risk assessment exercise before officers enter premises with a view to exercising a s.135 (1) MHA Act 1983 warrant.

The Council’s response

A more robust process for communicating demographics and essential risk information in relation to the s135 (1) warrant between AMHPs and the Police has been developed jointly.

This will include a typewritten document that is completed initially for the magistrate and then sent electronically by the AMHP when requesting police assistance under s.135 (1). This will ensure that clear communication to all agencies including recent risk assessments and environmental factors are taken in to account with regard to the specifics of the situation.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding the above, please come back to us.

Yours sincerely



Service Director – Mid Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire County Council