



Kernow
Clinical Commissioning Group

Private and Confidential

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Her Majesty's Assistant Coroner for
Cornwall & the isles of Scilly
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4 February 2019

Dear Mr Cox,

Prevention of future death report following inquest into the death of Mr Benjamin Colin Williamson

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths pertaining to Mr Benjamin Colin Williamson. In your report you identify considerations to be taken by NHS Kernow as joint commissioners of mental health in Cornwall, alongside Cornwall Council. Considerations have also been asked of Addaction which is a service commissioned by Cornwall Council.

As commissioners of Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust you have asked NHS Kernow to consider whether the system is sufficiently 'joined up' to meet the needs of people like Mr Benjamin Williamson. You have asked NHS Kernow to bring any gaps in the system to your attention and to contact [REDACTED] so that his experiences and insights can be taken into account. We have made contact with [REDACTED] and noted his concerns.

We can confirm there is a Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Dual Diagnosis Strategy for Adults covering the period 2016 - 2019. This is a multi-agency co-produced strategy that has been developed by members of Safer Cornwall and providers of services. Safer Cornwall is a partnership made up of statutory organisations and a wide range of other public sector, voluntary, community and private organisations. The responsible authorities include NHS Kernow, Cornwall Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service and Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Rehabilitation Company.

The purpose of this strategy is to assist the delivery and experience of integrated and inclusive service delivery for people with co-existing mental health and substance misuse problems, and their associated complex needs through consistent collaborative working.

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A wealth of evidence, both local and national, points to numerous challenges in engendering a culture of shared responsibility as well as integrated operational and clinical working which can leave people struggling to gain access to evidence based interventions as well as targeted support for substance misuse. Locally we have seen evidence of specialist services working in isolation and not adopting the principles set out in the strategy meaning individuals may not get access to the services they need.

Whilst the local Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat has made some progress with implementing actions linked to the strategy, a formal implementation plan had not been developed to ensure the strategy was delivered and monitored in its entirety. The Crisis Care Concordat is coordinated and chaired by NHS Kernow and includes a multiagency group of system wide representatives. It is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis and sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people get the help they need when they are having a mental health crisis.

NHS Kernow has met with relevant providers (including Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Valued Lives, Outlook South West; as well as those commissioned by Cornwall Council such as Addaction), partners and commissioners towards the end of 2018 and in January 2019. The aim of the meetings was to escalate concerns regarding gaps in provision where individual's mental wellbeing is not always being seen as part of 'everyone's business' and is often considered the domain of highly specialised and often medicalised approaches which comes at the expense of emotional and shared support of the whole person.

An exceptional Crisis Care Concordat meeting was held on the 22 January 2019. The meeting was well-attended by the relevant statutory organisations and providers. The purpose of this meeting was for providers to agree a way forward and specific actions have been identified to review the Dual Diagnosis Strategy and implement a robust multi-agency implementation plan. A draft implementation strategy completed by NHS Kernow provided the focus of the meeting. The providers of services will chair a monthly Implementation Steering Group in order to develop the draft implementation plan. The chair will rotate quarterly between the various providers ensuring a sharing of responsibilities and commitment to improving integrated working.

It is expected that the review of the strategy and comprehensive development of the implementation plan will be completed in six months. Whilst this is being undertaken priority will be given to actions that can be undertaken immediately and will support individuals with a dual diagnosis. For example, the development of a dynamic risk register so that people at risk can be identified and reviewed collaboratively. A similar register has been implemented for another group of people who have specific needs and has provided positive outcomes.

The progress of the Multiagency Implementation Steering Group will be reported to the Crisis Care Concordat in April 2019 with a future proposal to establish this reporting line to Safer Cornwall.

NHS Kernow is reviewing the contract requirements for new contract commencing April 2019, in relation to providers supporting individuals with a dual diagnosis. Whilst current contracts and the multi-agency strategy already specify how providers should meet the needs of people

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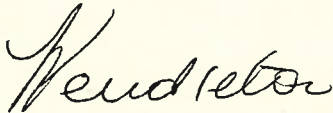
with a dual diagnosis, any contractual amendments will strengthen the monitoring of engagement with the implementation plan.

I hope that this response provides you with satisfactory information that we are committed to and are already working closely with all partner agencies to take measures to prevent future deaths as set out in the Regulation 28 Report.

We have sent a letter to the Coroner's officer to share with the family to invite them to be involved should they wish to be. We have not been contacted by the family at the time of sending this letter. We are aware that this response may be shared with them and I do hope that this information will provide them with assurance that actions are being taken in relation to the concerns identified in relation to Mr Williamson's death. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further in relation to this case.

Yours sincerely




Chief Officer