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Clinical Commissioning Group

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24th June 2019

Alison Mutch
HM Senior Coroner
Coroners Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

Dear Ms Mutch

Re: Response to Regulation 28 Letter: David Alan Price

I write following the inquest of David Alan Price heard on 13th November 2018 and concluded on 24th April 2019.

The concerns you have raised after hearing the evidence have been brought to my attention, the purpose therefore of this letter is to respond to the action you raised following the sad death of Mr Price.

Your letter states that Mr Price would have benefited from an integrated mental health counselling/detoxification service, which would have enabled joint treatment, and you have asked the CCG to take or propose actions to address your concerns.

In developing the actions to respond to your concerns the CCG has discussed the provision of support with both the Local Authority Public Health Department who are responsible for commissioning alcohol and substance misuse services and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust who provide local mental health services.

I would like to set out the provision that is in place to address the needs of clients like Mr Price who present with both alcohol and underlying mental health problems.

- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust provide specialist alcohol treatment service, which includes community detoxification within a structured treatment programme. The treatment programme is provided by trained alcohol workers who are competent in addressing underlying common mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression

- Self Help Services (The Big Life Group) supports people to access an eTherapy/online computerised treatment programme for substance misuse which allows people to resolve psychological and lifestyle issues associated with alcohol or substance misuse. Self Help services also provide one to one psychological support for people with common mental health problems. We know through activity reporting and monitoring that uptake of this service offer could be improved and having identified that uptake of this service needs to be improved Self Help Services will continue to promote the offer with Alcohol service providers.
- Healthy Minds (Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust) employ a therapist within IAPT (Improving Access for Psychological Therapies), who work with people with alcohol issues.
- The Liaison Mental Health Team (formerly RAID) employ Alcohol Workers who provide follow-up appointments and support in the community for those who frequently present to the Emergency Department.

We recognise that with these services in place Mr Price should have been able to benefit from them, but did not. The CCG and Local Authority have reviewed and are recommending the following actions:

1. Continued and ongoing promotion of services to support people with alcohol and other substance misuse problems experiencing mental health problems. Both CCG and Local Authority Public Health Department, through routine contract meetings will request regular updates on service promotions and communication between mental health and alcohol and substance misuse services
2. Monitoring access, activity and outcomes for people with alcohol issues accessing mental health/psychological therapy services, through regular contract meetings.

We believe that the actions set out in this response provide assurance that services are in place in Stockport to meet the needs of people with both underlying mental health and alcohol problems.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely




Interim Accountable Officer