



Portsmouth Hospitals

NHS Trust

Mark Cubbon
Chief Executive

Trust Headquarters
F Level, Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Cosham
PORTSMOUTH, PO6 3LY
Tel: 023 9228 6877

Mr D Horsley
HM Coroner for Portsmouth & South East Hampshire
The Coroner's Court
1 Guildhall Square
Portsmouth PO1 2GJ

01 July 2019

Our Ref: MC/JH/Q131/18

Dear Mr Horsley

Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths, concerns arising out of evidence heard at the Inquest into the death of Anthony Walker

Following the inquest into the death of Anthony Walker, which was concluded on 29th April, you issued a regulation 28 report addressed to several public bodies, including Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT), asking them to respond to a list of 3 concerns.

Of those concerns, the following required action from PHT:

"3. I was told in evidence that the contents of 111 emergency calls to South Central Ambulance Service involving callers' mental health issues are not made available to the Accident and Emergency Department at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth. I believe making this information available to the Accident and Emergency Department may help reduce the risk of suicide/ self-harm to patients attending the department in consequence of such calls."

In response to the regulation 28 report, I can report that senior representatives from the Emergency Department at PHT have met with senior representatives from SCAS to discuss the feasibility of introducing a process to enable 111 calls to be made available for clinical staff in the Emergency Department (ED) to access in "real time". It was agreed that such a process would not currently be feasible for technical and resource reasons; however this is something that the 2 organisations will continue to discuss.

Since Mr Walker's death there have been changes within the SCAS Emergency Operations Centre in Otterbourne. I understand that a Mental Health Team (MHT) from Southern Health Foundation Trust is now hosted within the Ops Centre on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis. As I understand it, patients who are identified by 111 callers as being at high risk of suicide or self-harm are referred onward to the MHT in the Ops Centre. It is possible that the SCAS hosted MHT may occasionally consider it appropriate to advise those patients to attend ED, because they also have a physical health need, and PHT are putting in place a process with SCAS to ensure that the MHT team have direct telephone access to a Consultant in ED to give them advanced notice of the attendance.

I do hope this response addresses your concern, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information, or if there is any other way in which I can assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Cubbon', written in a cursive style.

Mark Cubbon
Chief Executive