

2 May 2019

Mr D.M Salter
HM Senior Coroner,
Oxfordshire Coroner's Office,
The Oxford Register Office,
2nd floor,
1, Tidmarsh Lane,
Oxford.
OX1 1NS

Dear Mr Salter,

Re: Inquest into the Death of Simon Robinson

Response to Regulation 28 Report/Prevention of Future Deaths

Thank you for your report sent by letter dated 7 March 2019 in respect of Simon Robinson deceased, pursuant to Regulations 28 and 29 Coroners (Investigations) regulations 2013 and paragraph 7, schedule 5 Coroner's and Justice Act 2009.

Your report contains the following matter of concern:

"the current partnership agreement does not adequately cover incidents such as this one. It should be the expectation therefore that the police will respond initially to deal with matters until other agencies are able to respond and take over if appropriate. It is concerning that there is a gap in the partnership agreement for a crisis situation such as this."

We note that you would be reassured if the issue is reviewed at an inter-partnership meeting and an action plan agreed.

Response to the Regulation 28 concerns

The Interagency Partnership Agreement (Protocol), between Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Social Care agencies has been carefully considered and reviewed to address the concerns which have been raised.

As a result a number of suggested amendments have been made to the Protocol, which are:

1. Where police receive information that a person is suffering a significant mental health crisis where there is an actual or potential threat of serious harm to that person or others, the police will provide an immediate response in the first instance
2. The help of the appropriate Mental Health Agency will be sought at that time
3. The lead health agency when notified, will take ownership for the care of the person concerned as soon as possible
4. The priority for Police officers is to prevent serious harm to the person concerned and others at immediate risk
5. When first contacting the lead health agency a single point of contact will be established to aid communication with the Police

6. Where a health agency receives information that a person is at immediate risk of harm to themselves or others, they will carry out a risk assessment and immediately inform the Police with the risk assessment and relevant information.
7. In recognition of the limitation of Police Powers in certain situations, there is an overarching principle that the Police will seek to discharge its core responsibilities to save life and protect persons from harm. With the welfare of the individual(s) concerned at the heart of any decision making.

A strategic Mental Health partners meeting was held on 2nd April 2019. The recommended amendments were disseminated to all relevant Mental Health and NHS Agencies for consultation at this meeting. A response is expected from all agencies by 30th April 2019. The Protocol must be fully agreed by all parties before any changes are implemented.

It is proposed we will be able to report back to the Coroner in June 2019 with the outcome of the consultation and any agreed changes to the Protocol.

It is the intention of Thames Valley Police to instigate amendments 1:2:4:7 with immediate effect. These are changes to operational guidance for Thames Valley Police which can be implemented irrespective of amendments to the multi-agency protocol.

I trust this response complies with your requirements. However, please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any further queries.

Yours Sincerely



John Campbell
Chief Constable
Thames Valley Police