

**Coroner ME Hassell**

Senior Coroner  
Inner North London  
St Pancras Coroners Court  
Camley Street  
London  
NC1 4PP

Professor Stephen Powis  
National Medical Director  
NHS England & NHS Improvement  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Ms Hassell

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Rifky Grossberger who died on 5 August 2019.**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report (hereafter the 'report') dated 11 March 2020 concerning the tragic death of Rifky Grossberger on 5 August 2019. Firstly, I would like to express my deep condolences to Rifky's family and all those touched by her death.

Your report concludes that Rifky's death was a result of an accident. Her medical causes of death were hypoxia and asphyxia.

Following the inquest, you asked NHS England and Improvement (hereafter 'NHSEI') to address your concern regarding the need to find methods of delivering safety advice in an easily accessible format. This could be in the form of local and national leaflets to provide parents with the safety advice they need to look after their new born baby.

There is advice available on the NHS Choices website on ligature risks <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/baby-safety-tips/> and it specifically mentions blind safety.

You also asked NHSEI to address your concern around the need for healthcare professionals such as midwives and district nurses who look after new mums and their babies to be reminded of this particular danger.

We have consulted with Public Health England (hereafter 'PHE') who have advised that the national [Healthy Child Programme](#) (HCP) published by the Department of Health and Social Care, the universal public health programme for 0-19 year olds and their parents/carers, recommends that home safety information is discussed with families from birth and throughout the first 5 years. The Healthy Child Programme (0-5) is led and delivered by Health visitors. Health visitors are specialist public health nurses, who are the lead professionals working with children 0-5 years. They deliver



evidence based public health interventions and are skilled in identifying issues early, determining potential risks, and providing early intervention to prevent issues escalating. Health visitors deliver the five mandated health reviews which include:

- 28/40 weeks of pregnancy
- 10-14 days post birth
- 6-8 weeks
- 1 year
- 2.5 years

PHE sets out more specific guidance on the role of the health visitor in the [Six High Impact Areas](#) which support local delivery of the HCP. [High Impact Area five](#) focuses on managing minor illnesses, reducing accidents and outlines how health visitors provide evidence-based safety advice to parents, including through child health clinics, baby groups and other parenting activities.

PHE has worked with the RoSPA and CAPT to publish a report [on reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home among children](#) in 2018. This highlighted the most prevalent causes of unintentional injury hospital admissions and preventable death and serious long-term harm, including strangulation, and made recommendations around accident prevention at the local level.

Moving forward, PHE has outlined an aim to reduce preventable accidents as part of the [national priority on Best Start in Life](#) (2020-2025). It aims to achieve this through the modernisation of the Healthy Child Programme which is taking place between 2020-2023.

Thank you for bringing these important patient safety issues to my attention and please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Powis', written in a cursive style.

Professor Stephen Powis  
National Medical Director