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## Private and Confidential

Mrs Caroline Beasley-Murray  
HM Senior Coroner for Essex  
SEAX House  
Victoria Road South  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1QH

23 November 2020

Dear Madam Coroner,

### **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FURTHER DEATHS**

I refer to the subject reference which was issued following the inquest into the death of Zak Miles Joe Walter Paul Farmer and which was received by the Castle Rock Group on Monday 5 October 2020.

The concerns raised in your report were as follows

“1. Mr Farmer had spent some time, during his custodial sentence at HM Prison Chelmsford as a patient at the medium secure unit at Brockfield House pursuant to s48 MHA 1983. There appears to have been a failing in CRG’s procedures for obtaining information from the hospital following the discharge so that a prisoner receives his prescribed medication.

2. There appears to have been a failing in CRG’s procedures to ensure that a prisoner is released with discharge information relating to diagnoses, prescription and care plan details”.

In respect of concern number 1 above, a member of the mental health team attends all MHA s117 meetings prior to a prisoner being discharged back to HMP Chelmsford. The information contained within the s117 meeting minutes will determine the pathway, care plan and medicines management for that person. This information is discussed at the weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting hosted by the mental health team. Minutes of these meetings are recorded on SystemOne and can be examined if required.

The mental health team now have a dual system (SystemOne and a card index system) both of which contain up to date records of current patients being seen by the unit. This provides a safeguard should SystemOne be offline for any length of time. This dual system is audited each week to ensure both are accurate and updated and the ability exists to run reports on the number of patients released from prison on a month by month basis.

In the event that a prisoner is transferred from Brockfield House to HMP Chelmsford via court, rather than being directly transferred, any relevant confidential medical information is [REDACTED] Brockfield House to the healthcare team at HMP Chelmsford via secure email facility. This secure email facility has replaced the previous postal/fax system that was in place at the time of Mr Farmer’s transfer between the two institutions.

The standard and frequency of communication between the mental health team and staff at Brockfield House is very much improved and there is regular dialogue with regards to any prisoner who has spent, or is about to spend, time at that unit. Again, evidence of this communication is available for scrutiny on SystmOne.

In conclusion, physical attendance at the s117 meetings, follow-up discussion and planning by the MDT and the use of secure email has markedly improved and standardised the prisoner transfer process.

Regarding concern number 2; the process of discharge has changed significantly since CRG took over responsibility for healthcare provision at HMP Chelmsford in April 2019 and the ability now exists for GPs to access clinical notes which are stored and managed on SystmOne. This access is available through 'NHS Spine' which is a relatively new development which was unfortunately not available at the time of Mr Farmer's discharge from prison.

In the event that a prisoner does not already have a community-based GP, advice is given by healthcare staff to assist the prisoner with how to register with a community GP. This advice is recorded on SystmOne and is available for examination. A discharge summary (this would include the care plan, medication and diagnosis details), also now accompanies the prisoner on release from prison. Records of the discharge summary are kept on SystmOne and are available for examination. These records are also accessible by GPs through NHS Spine as described above.

Additionally, CRG employ a social inclusion representative who has responsibility for ensuring that when a prisoner is discharged, arrangements are made on behalf of the prisoner so that the provision of clinical details and other social arrangements are in place prior to discharge from prison. A record of individual prisoners' discharge arrangements is stored on SystmOne and is available for examination. The discharge process is monitored and supervised by a senior member of the mental health team.

I hope that the explanation of how current healthcare operations described in the paragraphs above differ significantly from the procedures in place immediately after CRG assumed responsibility for healthcare provision at HMP Chelmsford fully answer the concerns you raised in your PFD report.

Please do let me know if I can be of any further assistance or indeed if you would like a presentation of SystmOne in relation to the record keeping referred to in the main body of this letter.

Yours sincerely



  
CEO CRG Medical Services



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