

15th December 2020

Private and Confidential

Caroline Beasley-Murray
Area Coroner
Coroner's Office
Seax House
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Patient Safety Incident Management Team

The Lodge
Lodge Approach
Wickford
Essex
SS11 7XX

Tel: [REDACTED]

Chair: [REDACTED]
Chief Executive: [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Beasley-Murray,

I am writing to set out the Trust's formal response to the report made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, dated 25th November 2020, which was issued following the inquest into the death of Sharon Kelly.

I would like to begin by extending my deepest condolences to the family of Ms Kelly. This has been an extremely difficult time for them and I hope that my response provides the family, and you, with assurance that the Trust takes their loss seriously and has taken action to address the issue of concern raised in your report.

In response to the matter of concern regarding whether EPUT can review its arrangements for convening urgent Mental Health Act Assessments in conjunction with social services, I can confirm that a strong collaborative relationship exists between EPUT and ECC which reflects, develops and undertakes continuous improvement initiatives.

In response to your concern, the Trust's Associate Director for Social Care and the ECC Service Manager for Mental Health have jointly reviewed the current processes and have identified the following actions to be implemented by the Trust:

1. The Trust will ensure that referrals for urgent MHA assessments are accompanied by a telephone conversation between the referrer and the Emergency Duty Service (out of hours) and the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) hub.
2. Risks indicated by the referral will be made explicit in both the referral and the accompanying telephone call by the referrer.
3. The timing of the MHA assessment to be explored with the referrer and any accompanying risk/system issues are to be made explicit so that the management of risk can be agreed/mitigated.

I hope that I have provided you with robust assurance that the Trust has taken steps to address the issues of concern in your report, that we are continuing to take action to strengthen the care provided to our patients, and that patient safety is the Trust's top priority.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive