

HM Assistant Coroner Nicholas Leslie Rheinberg
Exeter and Greater Devon Coroner's Office

2nd July 2021

Dear Sir,

Re: Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report, Mr Corin Bonaparte

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report issued to Practice Plus Group on 7th May 2021 following the inquest touching upon the death of Mr Corin Bonaparte at HMP Dartmoor. Practice Plus Group would like to express its sincere condolences to Mr Bonaparte's family and friends.

This response addresses the matters of concern in so far as they relate to Practice Plus Group, who have been the lead provider of healthcare services at HMP Dartmoor since 1st April 2017. Within the service delivery model, there is a sub-contracting arrangement in place with Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) in respect of the provision of mental health services.

As the issues raised within the Prevention of Future Deaths Report touch upon the mental health team, in order to ensure a full and comprehensive response, Practice Plus Group have sought assurance that the matters of concern have also been addressed by DPT. Therefore, in the response set out below references to 'all healthcare staff' include those working in primary care, mental health and substance misuse services.

Matter of Concern:

Corin sought help from the mental health department at HMP Dartmoor. He revealed to a nurse in the mental health department the fact that he had recently deliberately harmed himself and made this fact known to other mental health workers. An ACCT was not opened despite the provisions in Chapter 2 of PSI 64 / 2011 which made the opening of an ACCT in these circumstances mandatory. In the light of the evidence from relevant

witnesses at the inquest hearing it could not be confidently assumed that their actions would be any different if similar circumstances were to arise in the future. This suggested a lack of adequate training.

Response:

To address the above matter of concern a number of actions have been taken.

The Head of Healthcare and clinical team at HMP Dartmoor have reviewed and made additions to the Local Operating Procedure (LOP) for healthcare involvement in the ACCT (Assessment, Care, Custody & Teamwork) process. The additions that have been made specify that recently reported or observed self-harm must be documented and that, in accordance with the requirements of PSI 64/2011, an ACCT must be opened. The revised LOP was submitted to the Local Quality Assurance Meeting and approved on 22nd June 2021. A staff signatory sheet will be signed by all staff acknowledging they have read and understood this guidance by 12th July 2021.

A copy of the revised LOP is attached for ease of reference and I would specifically refer you to the amendment at paragraph 1 of the local arrangements section of the LOP.

The DPT LOP has also been updated and was approved via their respective governance process on 8th June 2021. A copy is attached and I again refer you to paragraph 1 of the local arrangements section which illustrates where the corresponding amendment has been made.

With regard to promoting staff training and awareness, the prison last held ACCT / Suicide and Self-Harm (SASH) training on 8th December 2020 and this was attended by twelve health staff. Following this all healthcare staff in post had completed prison ACCT training. Training was then placed on hold due to the Covid- 19 outbreak, as a result of which, at the time of the inquest, we had four new members of staff requiring training. However, for two of these members of staff this would have constituted refresher training as they had transferred from other prison establishments and had received ACCT training before.

Since the inquest we have had further health staff join and we currently have twelve staff who require training and sessions have been booked for 2nd July. HMPPS are currently also

developing a revised version of Suicide and Self-Harm (SASH) training. When the new training is available health staff will be prioritised alongside operational prison staff. A record of all training undertaken is held locally and attendance will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Head of Healthcare.

In addition to the above, from July 2021, nationally updated ACCT guidance (V6) is being rolled out across all prisons in England & Wales by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. This training provides further clarity on the roles and responsibilities of healthcare staff within the ACCT process. The training is multi-disciplinary and will be open to all colleagues (including healthcare). The ACCT V6 training will commence at HMP Dartmoor on 5th July 2021 and the Head of Healthcare has received assurance that healthcare staff will be included in the updated training programme. This will provide the opportunity for joint training sessions in which all healthcare staff and discipline colleagues will review and refresh their knowledge of the ACCT process, increase their awareness of vulnerability and risk factors, and enhance their understanding of when an ACCT should be opened.

In addition to the above, the Practice Plus Group General Induction Booklet contains a section on the ACCT process and as part of our induction process for new staff, ACCT is discussed within the twelve week induction period. A confirmatory signature is required from the inducting supervisor to evidence completion. To ensure a robust and quality induction experience, additional sign off will now be undertaken by the Head of Healthcare on completion of the induction period. Devon Partnership Trust have a similar process in place for the mental healthcare team, with an induction booklet signed by both the individual staff member and the Mental Health Team Manager. We will monitor this and obtain further assurance that all new starters in the mental health team have sufficient knowledge of how and when to open an ACCT through our quarterly sub-contractor review meetings with DPT.

In a further collaborative learning initiative, Practice Plus Group and Devon Partnership Trust have arranged to hold weekly meetings for all healthcare staff to discuss 'hot topics' (for example ACCT reviews, clinical record keeping, transfer and discharge processes, mental health awareness sessions and other clinical bitesize sharing best practice sessions). This will further support embedding of lessons learned in to daily practice.

Managing healthcare involvement within the ACCT process is also audited through our Practice Plus Group bespoke prisons patient safety audit, which is called 'P.R.O.T.E.C.T'. This audit tool was developed from an evidence base of key themes from lessons learnt through deaths in custody, and is undertaken throughout the year on an annual audit schedule. The audit standards assess compliance in mental health referrals, timeliness of assessment, and of mental health team involvement in the ACCT process. Results of the audits are reviewed and discussed through Local Quality Assurance meetings within HMP Dartmoor. Where required themes are escalated to Regional Quality Assurance meetings and to quarterly National Quality Assurance meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of action planning and implementation within the audit cycle.

With regard to additional assurances from our subcontracted mental health service, DPT run an annual half day training for all their staff on risk assessment and management plans. This supports staff to evaluate patient risk to self and to others and assess when it is appropriate to open an ACCT. This training was last delivered in May 2021.

In addition, DPT complete a qualitative audit of a selection of progress notes weekly. Staff have been instructed that all progress notes following face to face contact with patients must now include the consideration of the ACCT process and the rationale for opening / not opening an ACCT. Feedback from this audit is discussed in staff one to one supervision that occurs at least monthly. DPT audit attendance at both initial and ongoing ACCT reviews on a monthly basis.

DPT staff working in Devon prison establishments have been trained in the use of The Connecting with People Suicide Awareness & Suicide Response sessions 1 & 2 (incorporating safety planning for all service users). This training took place in March 2021.

All DPT staff who joined the teams prior to the Covid-19 pandemic were trained in ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). This training has not been delivered during the Covid-19 pandemic, but will be resuming soon and all staff who have not attended will be booked on to this training as soon as dates are published.

Two DPT staff working in the Devon prison cluster are trained trainers for delivering Safe Talk training to partner agency staff. This is a shortened version of the ASIST (Applied Suicide

Intervention Skills Training). This half day training has been delivered to trainee prison officer's pre Covid-19, and will be offered to all partner agency staff as Covid-19 restrictions lift. This promotes a whole prison approach to identifying vulnerability and supporting those at risk.

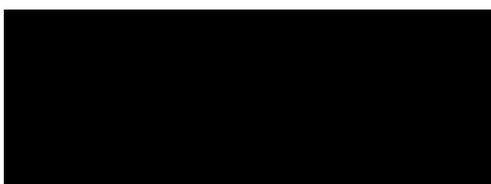
In addition, DPT expects all qualified clinicians to attend a Clinical Risk course within their core training. This course covers all aspects of clinical risk and is updated every two years by all qualified staff.

Finally, the Head of Healthcare at HMP Dartmoor also attends the Local Quality and Delivery Board (LQDB) with the Governor of the prison to discuss healthcare performance and operational issues requiring a partnership approach. Within the standing agenda items for LQDB there is a section for 'Safe Care and Treatment', where learning from incidents and learning generated as a result of the introduction of new policies is discussed. Our progress against actions identified in this PFD response will be reviewed within LQDB.

We hope that the above response provides assurance that Practice Plus Group are committed to providing a high quality healthcare service at HMP Dartmoor. In response to the specific concerns raised in relation to the death of Mr Bonaparte, we will ensure that the lessons learnt are implemented at HMP Dartmoor and are shared across all of our healthcare services in prisons throughout England.

We would like to end our response by taking the opportunity of inviting you to visit the healthcare team at HMP Dartmoor should you wish to discuss and review first-hand the improvements described above.

Yours faithfully,



Director of Nursing & Quality

On behalf of Practice Plus Group