



Sussex
NHS Commissioners



Private & Confidential

Penny Schofield
Acting Senior
Coroner
Coroner's Office
Woodvale

Date: 5th October 2021



Dear Ms Schofield

We write in response to Ms Hamilton-Deeley's Regulation 28 Report, dated 28 June 2021, following the inquest into the death of Mr Nicholas Spooner. We were saddened to learn of Mr Spooner's death, and the surrounding circumstances, and extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Following receipt of the Regulation 28 Report, we collaborated to establish what changes would be needed to address the concerns raised, and how we, as interdependent Social Care, NHS and charitable services, work together to effect improved services. Accordingly, this response is made jointly by:

- Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC);
- Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (part of Sussex NHS Commissioners) (CCG);
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT); and
- Change Grow Live (CGL).

We acknowledge and understand Ms Hamilton-Deeley's concerns and are clear that, as commissioners and providers of services, we have a joint responsibility to work collaboratively to meet the needs of those with co-occurring substance misuse and mental ill-health. We wholly recognise that there is an ongoing need for more to be done and that those with co-occurring conditions can experience difficulties in accessing the care and support they need. We understand and agree with Ms Hamilton-Deeley that outreach facilities, including drop-in and day centres, are necessary.

Currently, the CCG commission a Staying Well (Crisis Café service) which commenced in January 21. The service provides an out of hours (05:30 – 22:30 Weekdays, 3:30 – 22:30 Weekends) community space, where anyone on the verge of, or experiencing, a mental health crisis (self-defined) can access non-clinical mental health support. The aim of the service is to prevent an escalation of mental health need and/or to avert further crisis, to provide an alternative provision to attending A&E or accessing other urgent care services and to provide a step down from clinical services.

Also, the CCG is in the process of commissioning a new crisis house that will provide support to people in a mental health crisis who require 24/7 support and would otherwise be admitted to hospital. The tender for this service will be issued in October 2021 and the new service will start in the summer of 2022. The service will be for individuals with support needs for their mental health

however individuals may have a range of other support needs, including substance misuse, which is specifically recognised as one of five priority groups.

Additionally, currently, CGL provide substance misuse services which are designed to improve service users' mental health and well-being, where dual diagnosis has been identified. Specialist recovery co-ordinators support clients living in supported accommodation and benefit from the support of the CGL dual diagnosis nurses to improve access to specialist mental health services. These workers offer outreach support and harm minimisation interventions to those living in supported housing or who are homeless.

In June 2021, SPFT, set out its Co-occurring Substance Use and Mental Health (COSUMH) Conditions 5 year strategy. That strategy recognises that more needs to be done and adopts the principles of 'everyone's business', 'no wrong door', integrated care plans, clinical leadership and facilitating access to mutual aid.

BHCC have also recently produced a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) for "adults with complex needs"; this definition includes 2 or more of the following:

- Homelessness
- Mental health problems
- Domestic violence
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Offending.

BHCC and the CCG are establishing a joint group to oversee the strategic implementation of the recommendations. This group will seek to develop a more inclusive approach to supporting people with multiple complex needs, including patients with both mental health needs (at all levels of need) and substance misuse needs.

BHCC and the CCG are also currently jointly re-commissioning mental health supported accommodation services with the intention of providing greater flexibility in the model of care. The timeline for this tender is the same as the crisis house and the same arrangements for people with substance misuse needs will apply.

It should also be noted that Brighton and Hove has been awarded national funding to support the homeless and rough sleeping population within the city to tackle underlying mental ill health and reduce rough sleeping in the city. The additional services form part of co-ordinated efforts to ensure that rough sleepers have better access to NHS mental health support – joining up care with existing outreach, accommodation, drug and alcohol and physical healthcare services. Although this work is not specifically targeted at patients with a dual diagnoses of mental illness and substance misuse it is recognised that a significant number of those supported by this service will also experience issues with substance misuse.

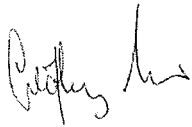
In the future and, as a result of the further collaboration that has taken place following receipt of the Regulation 28 Report the CCG/BHCC will:

- review the existing co-existing conditions group and make changes to include:
 - assurance that the group has a direct link in to the commissioning governance structures of the CCG/BHCC
 - assurance that is an appropriate strategic fit with the proposed new governance structures to implement the JSNA;

- ensure that there is continued information sharing and awareness of all existing and new service provision across the system so that all stakeholders know how to access the provision that is there; and
- ensure that all new commissioned services for both substance misuse and mental health conditions specifically considers co-existing needs.

We believe that the above plans and actions will lead to a substantial improvement in the provision of services for those patients in the City of Brighton who are managing co-occurring conditions. We will monitor those improvements to ensure they meet the needs of our community and will write to provide you with an update in 6 months' time. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the content of this response or if we can further assist please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Yours sincerely



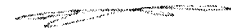
Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council



Chief Nursing Officer
Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group



Chief Executive
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



CEO
Change Grow Live