

Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths

Response by Cambridgeshire County Council into the Matters of Concern in respect of the death of Daniel France

1. I, [REDACTED], Assistant Director of Early Help and Social Care, Cambridgeshire County Council make this statement in response to the Regulation 28 report made by Philip Barlow, assistant coroner for the coroner area of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, following the inquest touching upon the death of Daniel France.

Regulation 28 Concern

2. The learned coroner raised the following concerns in his Regulation 28 report: “My concern in this case is that a vulnerable young person can be known to the County Council and Mental Health Trust and yet not receive the support they need pending substantive treatment. Danny was repeatedly assessed as not meeting the criteria for urgent intervention and yet the waiting list for psychological therapy was likely to be over a year from point of first presentation. That gap between urgent and non-urgent services is potentially dangerous for a vulnerable young person, where there is a chronic risk of an impulsive act. I understand that there is a long term plan to extend young people’s services to age 25, but I remain concerned about the ongoing situation, and that a young person today could be faced with the same challenges in finding support pending substantive treatment.”

Enhanced Support Services

3. The *Strong Families Strong Communities: securing best outcomes for children and young people* strategy was launched in March 2021. It reflects the expectation that support from local authorities is now intended to range from preventative measures in schools, the local community and early help all the way up to Tier 3 CAMHS support, social care services and ultimately Tier 4

provision for very unwell young people. A copy of the strategy document is attached to this statement.

4. On 1st July 2021 a new Partnership with the NHS called *YOUnited*, was launched. This was established to bring together mental and emotional health services for children and young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This Partnership is made up of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, Centre 33 and Ormiston Families. It is intended that together they will bring their expertise to help build relationships across our mental health and care system to ensure clinical services, voluntary organisations and local authority services work closer together to support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing.
5. *YOUnited* is funded by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. This is a significant step forward in providing a more integrated service for children and young people in this area, and colleagues believe the innovative partnership approach between the NHS and voluntary sector will bring improved benefits to children, young people and their families: <https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/younited/>
6. The Emotional Health and Well-Being Service run by Cambridgeshire Community Services comprising 3 separate teams (Emotional Health and Well-Being Practitioner Team; Children's Well-Being Practitioner Team; Mental Health Support Teams) are linked in with this work, as well as representatives from Fullscope – a consortium of charities working across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with a shared mission to improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people.
7. This integrated delivery model became part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust contract from April 2021 and the fundamental principle of this approach is to develop an integrated solution to deliver children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing

support services. Evidence and experiences of users and professionals suggest that a system approach will create the right environment that brings commissioners, organisations, and people together to deliver better outcomes for children and young people with mental health concerns. This involves working across traditional silos ensuring resources are used and allocated flexibly beyond traditional service boundaries and in response to learning from data, feedback and needs.

8. There is a comprehensive mobilisation plan to support the move to this new way of working. One of the first tasks of the *YOUnited* Partnership will be to launch a single point of referral for all the services, to make it easier for young people to navigate and access the right support when they need it. This launched in July 2021 and a young person up to the age of 25 can now self-refer to Centre 33.
9. The new service will provide mental health and emotional support for children and young people aged 0–25 years. There will be particular effort to include those who identify with the following characteristics: Learning Disability; Special Education Needs and Disabilities; Neurodevelopmental needs including Autism and Attention Hyperactivity Disorder; LGBTQ+; English as an additional language; sensory impairments; vulnerable children and young people; Not in Education Employment and Training; Children in Care; Children in Need or in need of Protection; those exposed to adverse childhood experiences; refugees; and hard to engage children and young people.

Education & Training

10. CCC continue to periodically arrange Mental Capacity Act Training for professionals in Children's Social Care. The training is open to a broad section of professionals within the Local Authority, including Head of Service, District Safeguarding Managers, Team Managers, Social Workers and Commissioning colleagues.

Conclusion

11. The services outlined in this document have not been introduced as a direct result of Daniel's death, however they have been introduced since his death in a direct response to an identified need to improve the services offered to young people.
12. CCC continues to seek to improve practice and working relationships with multi-agency professionals to improve outcomes for children. There remain complexities around consent to involvement with our services and the young people we are typically trying to support are of an age where they can make decisions about who they do and do not want working with them. Our staff are much more aware now of their wider responsibilities to partnership working and the critical importance of young people being seen alone to ensure their wishes and feelings are fully understood. They are also clear that parents or carers in these circumstances have the option of a carer's assessment in their own right, and this may mean that other services are also become available to help the family in a broader context. The range of support available to young people and their families has developed significantly, and staff do know the routes through which they can access support as needed.
13. There will continue to be examples of cases where there is complication in terms of who should be taking the professional lead for a young person, and what services may or may not offered by each agency. In those circumstances, staff are now aware that they can follow the established routes around joint partnership packages of support and escalation processes if needed.
14. Mental health needs of young people have assumed a much higher profile across the country and in Cambridgeshire following the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. The importance of our responsibilities, support and advocacy for young people in challenging and vulnerable situations is very much at the forefront of our new service design.

Signed



Dated

14.4.22