

**26 September 2022**

Mr McLoughlin  
HM Senior Coroner, West Yorkshire (Eastern)  
Coroner's Office and Court  
71 Northgate  
Wakefield  
WF1 3BS

Trust Headquarters  
Fieldhead Hospital  
Ouchthorpe Lane  
Wakefield  
WF1 3SP

Dear Sir,

### **Regulation 28 Response - Daniel Clements**

We write in response to the Regulation 28 report following the inquest touching the death of Mr Daniel Clements. We would like to offer the family of Mr Daniel Clements our sincere condolences for this loss.

We hope the information supplied in this response provides assurance that the concerns raised are important to the Trust and shows how we, as a secondary mental health care provider, work with partner organisations to ensure the safety of a person who does not present with a mental illness, but experiences suicidal ideation (for example through social circumstances).

The Trust recognises that many factors contribute to the risk of a person taking their own life. Suicide is highly complex and each person's experiences of suicidal thoughts and actions are individual. Skilled assessment, listening to how and why the person's thoughts are looking towards death and supporting that person to turn towards life and keep themselves safe is crucial in developing a clear plan to reduce risk.

Where an intervention capable of reducing the risk of suicide can be provided by the Trust, we aim to achieve excellence in this regard, for example in the treatment of mood disorders. However, where resolution of a problem lies beyond the scope of services provided by the Trust, we will endeavour to ensure that the person and their carers are offered support in accessing an appropriate service, often involving partner organisations.

The Trust views suicide prevention as a role that extends outside of our own organisation, and would extend to primary care, other mental health and social care providers, emergency services, addiction services, housing, independent and voluntary sectors among others. The Trust works closely and in partnership as a part of the regional suicide prevention public health aims and ambitions across West and South Yorkshire.

Following an assessment of a person by secondary mental health services, and where no mental illness is identified, practitioners would focus on the problem areas highlighted in the assessment and consider partner organisations that can best assist with their problems. Such organisations often provide consent based or self-referral services, as the person's active engagement with the service is required. Practitioners will, on a case-by-case basis, consider with the person whether sign posting, referral or self-referral is the most appropriate option.

For example, where debt is causing stress and suicidal thoughts, information regarding the Citizens Advice Bureau would be given. Where drug misuse is the main problem, information on Inspiring Recovery, a local drug and alcohol service, would be supplied. There would also be a discussion regarding the alternative organisations that they can access which provide support for people with suicidal thoughts.

These include:

- The Mental Health Support line. This is a telephone service which supports people who are:
  - At risk of developing mental health problems
  - Diagnosed with common mental health problems
  - Want help accessing mental health support
  - Experiencing mental health distress
  - Seeking information, advice and support
- 'Safe Space' is open to anyone in a crisis. This is a partnership between Touchstone, Spectrum People and Gaspod. The Wakefield Safe Space is funded by the Wakefield District Health and Care Partnership (previously known as Wakefield CCG), part of West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6pm-12am. Their support can be face to face, telephone and Zoom.
- The Samaritans is a 24hr/7 day a week service for anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts, or anyone concerned about friends/family.

If the assessing practitioner identified any adult social care needs during their assessment, they can make a referral to Social Care Direct (SCD – Local Authority service provision) or provide the person with the details to enable the service user to make a self-referral, such as if a practitioner had any concerns relating to safeguarding or homelessness matters. Although Social Care Direct is a 24 hour and 7 day a week service, some of the advice services (i.e. homelessness services) may not be available during all hours. Therefore, advice on 'next steps' may differ depending on the day and time of the discussion.

Where a person's social circumstances are such that it is considered by the practitioner that talking therapies may help the person better understand their experiences and their impact, a referral or self-referral to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) may be appropriate.

The Trust's services meet with partner organisations referred to above on a frequent basis, the purpose of which is to resolve service interface issues, ensure smooth care pathways and the updating of the system to reflect any service changes. In addition to these meetings, the Trust will propose a meeting with its social care partner, Wakefield Local Authority, to raise with them the contents of your report.

As per the above, the Trust has and continues to work closely with its partner organisations and provides appropriate information or referral opportunities, to ensure a person is able to access social support services (as per the commissioning or service arrangements).

In response to your concern relating to the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, the Trust does not intend to comment specifically on the legislation but would like to comment on our current provision. Section 136 is the police provision to detain a person they consider may be suffering from a mental disorder and is in immediate need of care or control for the protection of themselves or others. The Trust is commissioned to operate a 'Health-based Place of Safety' within Wakefield. The MHA Code of Practice 2015 states that the preferred location for a place of safety is a Health-based Place of Safety where mental health services are provided, and a Police station should only be used as a Place of Safety in exceptional circumstances. The Trust's Wakefield Health-based Place of Safety provides for one person at a time to be conveyed there by the police for an assessment of the person's mental health in the form of a Mental Health Act assessment. The current Section 136 provision allows for a person to be assessed within a maximum of 36 hours. A Health-based Place of Safety does not provide any facilities to maintain a person for any other purpose or beyond the duration of the S136 detention.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share with you the Trust's approach to the concerns raised within the Regulation 28 report. We hope it assures you and the family of Mr Clements that Trust services make every effort to ensure a person can access appropriate commissioned services to address their social needs, needs that cannot otherwise be addressed by a secondary mental health care provider.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Chief Nurse / Director of Quality and Professions

[Redacted address]