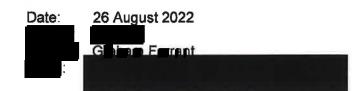
Chief Executive BCP Council Civic Centre Bourne Avenue Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Rachael Griffin Senior Coroner Her Majesty's Coroner for the County of Dorset Civic Centre Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Dear Ms Griffin

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Re Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths - Ref: 167554

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July 2022 and the attached report relating to the very sad circumstances surrounding Gaia Pope-Sutherland's death.

I and my colleagues in Adult Social Care Services have followed the case as it was heard and appreciate having the opportunity to respond to your points.

Having reviewed your Report, I note that one of the keys issues relates to the sharing of information, and in particular the outcome of a Mental Health Act assessment. I have referred to concerns 2x and 2xi in particular to inform this response.

The BCP Council Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) Service uses the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007) and the Code of Practice to inform practice standard, which are monitored through an AMHP Quality Assurance Framework.

The Code of Practice is very clear about the need to record and share information after an assessment has been completed, regardless of the outcome, and the BCP Quality Assurance Framework makes specific reference to this code.

Regardless of whether an admission is facilitated, AMHP are expected to comply with the following:

 If an admission has been facilitated, the AMHP's must produce an outline report detailing the outcome of the assessment and other key pieces of information at the point the person is admitted. The report must be given to the person receiving the application for detention or to the receiving ward.

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 The AMHP must then complete their full (or final) report within 2 hours of completing their assessment (or by the end of their shift if they are an out of hours worker) and again distribute this to the receiving Ward (if relevant), the Mental Health Legislation office, General Practitioner, Care Co-ordinator, the Medics involved in the assessment and the AMHP Lead within 72 hours.

There may be rare occasions when the standard of 72 hours for distributing the Report cannot be met, for example when the AMHP cannot determine which GP surgery the person is registered with. In such circumstances, AMHPs have dedicated business support assistance to expedite the matter.

We are actively engaging with Dorset Healthcare Trust to agree the necessary amendments to the Pan-Dorset Standard Operating Procedure. We are of the view that the Standard Operating Procedure standard for distributing information is too slow and we will continue to apply the requirement of 72 hours.

We are also in the process of discussing with AMHP's how they could succinctly share information with GP's, and in particular highlighting that information which is of most immediate relevant to them.

It is worth noting that the reason we required AMHP's to send the AMHP Lead a copy of their final report is to carry out a Quality Assurance check which provides assurance that standards, including timescales, are being met.

I hope that this letter gives you reassurance about our procedures and would invite you to let me know if you have any further concerns regarding our policies and practices.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive BCP Council

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