



**Dorset  
Council**



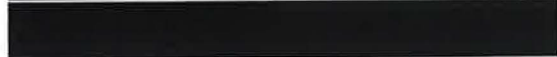
**Senior Leadership Team**

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Mrs Rachael C Griffin  
Senior Coroner  
The Coroner's Office for the County of  
Dorset  
Town Hall  
BOURNEMOUTH  
BH2 6DY

**Date:** 9 September 2022

Dear Madam

**Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths Report Response**  
**Deceased: Gaia Klima Pope-Sutherland**

I write following the inquest that concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 into the death of Gaia Klima Pope-Sutherland and the Regulation 28 report issued to Dorset Council. I would firstly like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Gaia Pope-Sutherland for their loss.

The Regulation 28 report raised the following concern about the Standard Operating Procedure, following a Mental Health Act assessment: -

- "... in respect of feeding back of information to the GP by the AMHP which is detailed at paragraph 2.10 of the Standard Operating Procedure for the flow of information following a Mental Health Act assessment, I would recommend that consideration is given by Dorset County Council (now known as Dorset Council), BCP Council and DHUFT to reducing the timeframes from 7 days to 72 hours. Although this is the decision for Dorset County Council and BCP Council, the document is a DHUFT document and so will require their consideration too.'

Operational and strategic leads from Dorset Council have been communicating regularly since 21 July 2022 with colleagues from BCP Council and DHUFT, now referred to as Dorset Health Care, about the procedure.

In addition to this Dorset Council have prioritised and completed an internal review of its pathways and what is recorded by the AMHP's on the social care management recording system, Mosaic. This included ensuring that we adhere to the Mental Health Act Code of Practice, in particular, 14.100 which states: -

"Having decided whether or not to make an application for admission, AMHPs should inform the patient, giving their reasons. Subject to the normal considerations of patient confidentiality, AMHPs should also give their decision and the reasons for it to:

- the patient's nearest relative
- the doctors involved in the assessment
- the patient's care co-ordinator (if they have one), and
- the patient's GP, if they were not one of the doctors involved in the assessment.

Dorset Council has considered the recommendation to reduce the timeframe from 7 days to 72 hours to forward the completed AMHP report to the assessed persons GP. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022 Dorset Council put in place a new internal data reporting system. This system now enables the AMHP duty manager and business support, for the AMHP's, to monitor that the initial AMHP report is completed and emailed to the GP within 72 hours. This also ensures that there is tracking of the full AMHP report, which is then sent by secure e-mail to the GP within 7 days of a person having had a Mental Health Act

assessment. The e-mail to the GP will also confirm that a Mental Health assessment has been undertaken, the outcome of the assessment and provide the contact details for the AMHP service, should further information be required by the GP. A monthly performance report of this activity is then shared with senior managers.

The initial AMHP report provides the following information:

- Referral details, including events leading up to referral
- Information about the persons Nearest Relative.
- Risks identified to the person's health, their own safety and the safety of others, environmental risks i.e., property, pets
- The Mental Health Act Assessment, date and time, location, professionals involved and contact details, legal grounds for decision making, outcome and follow up actions required.

The full AMHP report includes information about:

- Relevant background information i.e., previous psychiatric admissions, substance misuse, MHA assessments, criminal justice contact, forensic history etc.
- The AMHP's recording of the interview with the person
- Alternative options considered e.g., referral to the Home Treatment Team
- Views of those involved in the assessment
- Person's responses
- Issue encountered i.e., ambulance / transport delay, Police delay, lack of S.12 doctors etc

The AMHP service in Dorset Council has a different operating model to that of BCP Council AMHP service. Dorset Council has a twenty-four-hour service over seven days, and BCP Council have a separate daytime (9 – 5 p.m. Monday to Friday) and out of hours service. Dorset Council has shift patterns of twelve hours with varying start times i.e., 8am-8pm, 9am-9pm, 11am-11pm and 8pm to 8am. There is an 8-week rota so the AMHP's do not always work on consecutive days, hence the reason why full reports are not completed within 72 hours.

From our internal review the managers within the AMHP service, through ongoing supervision, will also ensure that the AMHP's, before undertaking a Mental Health Act assessment, review any records held on the Dorset Council recording system, Mosaic. There is also now a mandatory field on Mosaic to notify the allocated adult social care practitioner that a Mental Health Act assessment has been undertaken.

There is a Continuing Professional Development record which all AMHPs must complete to evidence their registration and approval as an AMHP. The Council also now requires AMHPs to have internal mandatory training about the sharing of confidential information in relation to the Mental Health Act assessment.

I hope that the steps outlined to enhance the sharing and scrutiny of the AMHP statutory functions will provide assurance to the Chief Coroner of Dorset Council's commitment to mitigate the risks of future deaths of Dorset residents. Designated operational and strategic leads will continue to work closely with BCP Council and Dorset Health Care in all future reviews of key standard operating procedures where a person has a Mental Health Act assessment.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive