

**Children, Young Person & Family Services,
All Age Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Services**

Sentinel House
Nuffield Road
Poole
Dorset
BH17 0RB

Web: www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk

11th November 2022

**Mrs Rachael Griffin
HM Senior Coroner
Bournemouth Coroner's Court
Town Hall
Bournemouth
BH1 6DY**

Dear Madam,

Re: Inquest touching upon the death of Miss Gaia Pope-Sutherland

I write further to my letter dated 11th July 2022 to provide you with an update on the following action, which I committed to updating you on by 11th November 2022. As you will recall, this area formed part of the agreed actions to be taken following my evidence during the inquest, and this action also forms part of Dorset HealthCare's formal Regulation 28 Preventing Future Deaths notice response dated 14 September 2022. A full update on the wider Regulation 28 notice response from the Trust will be provided as previously noted by [REDACTED], Acting Chief Executive Officer, by 31st May 2023.

Please find my update on this matter below:

- 1. To introduce a Trust procedure that deals with victims of sexual violence when they come onto wards, in terms of safeguarding them from future incidents / deterioration on the ward. In addition to consider specific guidance for staff as to how to support a patient following a sexual incident.*

As outlined previously, I wrote to Mr [REDACTED] Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, on 8th July 2022 to ask that he identify a member of the Sexual Safety working group to lead on drafting a procedure that deals with how to best support victims of previous sexual violence when they are admitted to an inpatient unit. The procedure was also required to cover what staff need to do upon a patient reporting a sexual assault or incident to them (both within an inpatient and a community setting). I asked [REDACTED] to ensure that the procedure was finalised, approved and disseminated by 31st October 2022.

██████ has asked me to confirm to you that he is satisfied that he has met this action. The Trust's Safeguarding policy has been updated to highlight the response needed when an adult discloses they have experienced sexual abuse. This may be in a hospital or community setting. In addition, two appendix documents have been added to the policy setting out further details which I enclose for your reference. ██████

██████ has advised me that the *'guidance for staff in relation to historical sexual abuse fits in with the 'Making Safeguarding Personal' agenda. It's important to determine what an individual wants to do, while encouraging them and supporting them to report it. Every situation is different so care for patients who disclose historical abuse will be planned on a case by case basis'*.

As per my previous letter, this is my final update on actions pertaining to my evidence. Should you have any queries in respect of this update, ██████ would be happy to assist you with these.

I can confirm that I am happy for this letter to be shared with the family and other Interested Persons involved in the case should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely,

██████

██████

Service Director

Children, Young Person and Family Services, All Age Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Services

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