

Ms Rachael Clare Griffin
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National Medical Director
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[REDACTED]
08 June 2023

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Dear Ms Griffin,

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Jason Anthony Williams who died on 31 July 2020.

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (hereafter "Report") dated 02 February 2023 concerning the death of Jason Anthony Williams on 31 July 2020. In advance of responding to the specific concerns raised in your Report, I would like to express my deep condolences to Mr Williams' family and loved ones. NHS England is keen to assure the family and the coroner that the concerns raised about Mr Williams' care have been listened to and reflected upon.

NHS England is the responsible organisation for the commissioning of healthcare into prisons, which is devolved to regional teams. Commissioning healthcare in prisons is done on a principle of equivalence, which has been defined by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and broadly states that the aim is to ensure people detained in prisons in England, are offered provision of and access to appropriate services and treatment, considered to be at least consistent in range and quality, with that available in the wider community.

I note that you have also sent your Report to His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and (HMPPS) and HMP Guys Marsh, who are better placed to comment on many of the concerns raised in your Report. All prisoners have the potential to be vulnerable, requiring a case-by-case assessment and careful management and in my response, I have considered the concerns raised in your Report regarding the apparent lack of national guidance on how to define vulnerability and care for and safeguard vulnerable prisoners.

You highlight in your Report that evidence was given regarding HMP Guys Marsh, where guidance is under development for caring for those specifically considered at risk of self-neglect.

Self-neglect is an extreme lack of self-care and covers a wide range of behaviours. It can be intentional, or unintentional in the case of someone living with a condition such as dementia or, can be caused or associated with mental illness or substance abuse. The Care Act (2014) statutory guidance includes self-neglect as a category falling under adult safeguarding, and a cause to make a safeguarding referral.

Locally, adult safeguarding Boards and teams record indicators of self-neglect and NHS England includes information about self-neglect in a [Safeguarding Adults Pocket Guide](#).

More recently in late 2022, in conjunction with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and supported by Health Education England (HEE), NHS England developed and produced a training programme for [Adult Safeguarding in a Secure and Detained Setting](#) focusing on adult safeguarding and the roles and responsibilities of those working in secure and detained settings in England.

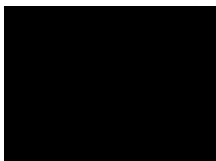
The programme was designed for a multi-agency audience, to enable better collaboration between teams and create a culture of safety by embedding safeguarding into everything a prison does. NHS England is also working with the HMPPS National Social Care Partnership Board workplan which includes and action to improve safeguarding in establishments.

I hope this reassures you that there is guidance in place to support all staff to be able to identify vulnerabilities in patients' and take appropriate action to safeguard those patients and that there is further work planned to ensure a culture of safety and effective safeguarding is in place.

In terms of the use of psychoactive substances, which was also a factor in this case, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 'New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Toolkit' supports both custody and healthcare staff to manage the challenges around NPS use in secure environments, including prisons, and gives attention to particular challenges for healthcare staff. The full toolkit is available at [NPS Toolkit](#).

Thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention and please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



National Medical Director