

**Nadia Persaud**

East London Coroner's Court  
Queens Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 8QP

**National Medical Director**

NHS England  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8UG

18 October 2023

Dear Coroner,

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Allison Vivian Jacome Aules who died on 19 July 2022.**

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (hereafter "Report") dated 30 August 2023 concerning the death of Allison Vivian Jacome Aules on 19 July 2022. In advance of responding to the specific concerns raised in your Report, I would like to express my deep condolences to Allison's family and loved ones. NHS England are keen to assure the family and the coroner that the concerns raised about Allison's care have been listened to and reflected upon.

This response focuses on the national NHS England policy and programmes relevant to the matters of concern you have identified in your Report. The concerns you have raised relating to the provision of local support and the actions taken in providing that support to Allison would need to be addressed by the relevant local commissioners and providers.

Your Report however does raise concerns relating to national resourcing of children and young people's mental health (CYPMH) services, sometimes referred to as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and concerns over the available workforce in CYPMH and increasing levels of need.

Improving mental health support for children and young people is a priority for NHS England. The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) (LTP) sets an ambitious commitment that access will increase, with 345,000 more children aged 0-25 accessing support in 2023/24 compared to 2019. This commitment came with significant additional funding, rising to over [£900m in 2023/24](#). We have made significant progress towards this commitment with 702,000 children and young people receiving support from the NHS in the 12 months to June 2023. This has been achieved through investment in the children and young people's mental health workforce, [which has increased by 46% since the start of the LTP, and by 70% since 2016](#).

We accept your finding that demand for support for mental health and wellbeing is increasing. The prevalence of mental health need in children and young people has increased following the Covid-19 pandemic and many services are facing significant demand. Increasing access to support therefore continues to be a priority.

The NHS LTP also included a ten-year ambition that 100% of children and young people who need specialist support should be able to access help by the end of the decade.

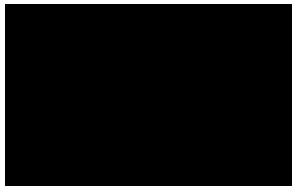
[The NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#) (June 2023) sets out the importance of continued investment in the mental health workforce and in 2022, NHS England consulted on potential new access and waiting time standards including for children and young people's mental health. Delivering these ambitions will be subject to future funding settlements and we will clarify plans in due course.

We will ensure that the leadership across NHS regions and Clinical Network are aware of the findings of this Report.

I would also like to provide further assurances on national NHS England work taking place around the Reports to Prevent Future Deaths. All reports received are discussed by the Regulation 28 Working Group, comprising Regional Medical Directors, and other clinical and quality colleagues from across the regions. This ensures that key learnings and insights around preventable deaths are shared across the NHS at both a national and regional level and helps us pay close attention to any emerging trends that may require further review and action.

Thank you for bringing these important patient safety issues to my attention and please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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National Medical Director