

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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25 October 2023

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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Dear Madam

Re: Preventing Future Deaths (Regulation 28) Report – Allison Aules

I refer to your letter dated 30 August 2023 and the Regulation 28 report detailing your concerns about the risk of future deaths in light of the inquest findings.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family of Allison Aules. This must have been an extremely difficult time for them, and I hope that my response provides them and you with assurances that NELFT NHS Foundation Trust is taking action to address the issues set out in your report.

The Trust is determined to ensure that all patients receive care in a person-centred approach and that the patient's voice is at the centre of planning the patient's care. The Trust's expectation is that the young person's voice is heard in the triage, initial assessment, care/treatment plan, and follow-ups alongside their parents / responsible adults. We continue to work in this area, not least through regular audit of our work. In addition, each member of staff has monthly supervision with their clinical supervisor, who scrutinises the records of randomly selected young persons to ensure that the voice of the young person has been captured and considered at every contact. We will also continue to work to ensure that the voice of the young person is also discussed at clinical Multidisciplinary Team Meetings, Post Assessment Discussion meetings, Complex Case Discussion meetings, and safeguarding supervision.

I would also like to use this opportunity to reiterate that, in response to learning from incidents in the Trust, and following the publication of NICE Guidelines 225 (Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence - September 2022), the Trust is transitioning to a new approach to assessing, identifying, and managing the clinical risks of the patients.

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This guidance calls for a move away from the risk stratification model and a transition towards a risk formulation and safety planning approach. Risk formulation requires psychosocial assessment, formulation and risk planning. This approach conceptualizes risk as dynamic and fluid, rather than static and categorical (e.g. low, medium, high) and is focused on a personal understanding of risk that understands how the risk has escalated and what, for that specific individual, will support it to reduce in the future or may lead to further escalation.

As part of the consultation process, the Trust considered various models for the implementation of objectives set out in the NICE Guidelines and opted to implement the Oxford Centre for Suicide Research's model of risk formulation. This model looks at completing a psychosocial assessment that will lead to risk formulation and then safety planning. This safety plan is co-produced with the client, family and significant others within their social group.

We will be taking forward this work focusing on how this new model can enable clinicians to identify the actual risks, recognise the dynamics of these risks, and devise safety plans to address the identified risks more effectively. We are putting training and system changes in place to support the roll out of our work in this area.

In respect of the specific concerns, expressed by you at the hearing and within the Regulation 28 report, the Trust has put actions in place that aim to address these specific areas for improvement in order to strengthen the safety of our services further. Please find attached an action plan which sets out these actions.

I hope that we have provided you with some assurance that NELFT NHS Foundation Trust is taking steps to address the concerns expressed in your report and that we are continuing to take action to prioritise patient safety and quality of care.

Thank you for raising this matter with NELFT NHS Foundation Trust. If I can be of any further assistance or if you would like a further update on the progress made to address your concerns, I would be happy to provide a further update.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Chief Executive

Enc: Regulation 28 action plan

[Redacted contact information]

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