

Date: 6 December 2023

Mr Alan Wilson - Senior Coroner

Dear Mr Wilson,

Re: Response to the Coroners Regulation 28 - Kirandip Bharaj

Blackpool Adult Social Services takes the care and support of our people with the utmost importance. We are extremely sorry this lady died in the circumstances she did and offer our sincere condolences to her family.

We thank you for bringing to our attention and we acknowledge the recommendation that adult social workers need access to specialist training, tools and guidance to enable them to best support people diagnosed with Eating Disorders and recognise when they need access to urgent medical assessments and treatment.

A starting point for us was to fully understand the circumstances relating to this lady's death and to undertake an Internal Review to identify areas of learning. The post incident review has commenced and we are committed to sharing any learning from this review across our services.

We have considered the concerns and our response and action to each is below:

Training:

The Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs); Blackpool Council AMHPs undertake post qualifying academic training that is provided by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) – this specialist training covers a range of mental disorders and includes a session on eating disorders that is undertaken by a specialist in that field. The AMHPs once qualified are required to undertake additional legal update training on an annual basis and within that specialist training explore the interface between the Mental Health Act 1983 (revised 2007) and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 which; includes case law. In addition some Blackpool Council AMHPs received half a day's training from LSCFT specialist eating disorder service on 22/2/2021. LSCFT (Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust) is the specialist mental health provider for the area.

We have requested and seen the components of the AMHP training and information on this specifically relating to eating disorders and can confirm that this is current and fit for purpose. All newly approved



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AMHPs in Blackpool receive this training and we are looking at the training needs of the wider AMHP service.

The AMHP lead for Blackpool Council will ensure that all AMHPs within their supervision discuss their knowledge and experience relating to Eating Disorders and will identify if additional specialist training is identified - we will seek to procure this, where required.

The AMHP lead for Blackpool Council will liaise with LSCFT specialist eating disorder service to formally request they deliver an awareness raising session on what services they provide and how to access eating disorder support – for all AMHPs.

Social Workers and Support Workers – On reviewing training there is an inconsistency in the level of awareness on the basic understanding of eating disorders; we are therefore looking to increase and develop awareness across our social work teams. We have shared the following links with all staff across Adult Social Care:

- The NHS Guidance: [Overview – Eating disorders - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- [Healthy Young Minds: Eating Disorders \(healthyyoungminds.lsc.co.uk\)](https://healthyyoungminds.lsc.co.uk)
- [National Eating Disorders Association](https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org)

We have asked that all Service Managers check and confirm that their staff have accessed and read this information and have a conversation in supervision to explore and discuss further.

Where we have identified practitioners who are supporting individuals with an eating disorder; we will monitor through supervision, to ensure the worker is sufficiently confident and identify any additional training required - this will be provided.

We have developed a range of resources which are available to all our social work teams; via our electronic system and guidance is being developed which will assist all staff on when a potential eating disorder is identified how they respond, what they need to do and who they need to inform.

Provider Training: We are keen to ensure the care providers we work closely with have a basic awareness of eating disorders. The Contracts and Commissioning Team are undertaking a piece of work to understand and explore this further. We have shared the links to the NHS' national guidance and Healthy Young Minds with our provider services for cascading through their organisations to increase the general level of awareness around eating disorder.

Our Contracts and Commissioning Team will be linking in with the Health and Social Care Career Academy to explore and raise awareness of eating disorders.

Tools and Guidance:

- There are a number of websites and information available to assist practitioners in their understanding of eating disorders and we have shared these across the social work teams.



- On [Healthy Young Minds: Eating Disorders \(healthyyoungmindspsc.co.uk\)](https://healthyyoungmindspsc.co.uk) there is access to tools and resources available for use.
- The Service Manager for Adult Mental Health Services is exploring the benefits of a specific risk assessment tool to support social workers in identifying, managing and escalating risk when working with people with a range of mental illness/mental disorders.
- A 7 minute briefing tool is being developed to form part of the suite of resources to assist all staff.

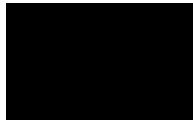
Actions:

Action	By whom	Timescales
Internal Post Incident Review Report - good practice & learning to be shared across Adult Social Care	Service Manager - Adult Mental Health	End of January 2024
Suite of resources available via SharePoint for access for all of Adult Social Care.	Service Manager - Adult Mental Health	End of December 2023
To develop a 7 minute briefing on Eating Disorders to be shared across Adult Social Care and wider to enhance learning around Eating Disorders	Service Manager - Adult Mental Health	End of January 2023
AMHP supervision - discussion point on Eating Disorders explored with each AMHP and if additional training required to be discussed with AMHP Lead	AMHP supervisors – oversight from AMHP Lead	End of February 2023
To explore if a specific Risk Assessment in relation to mental illness and eating disorders is required.	Service Manager - Adult Mental Health	End of January 2024
To approach LSCFT Eating Disorder Service to request they provide an awareness session for all AMHPs early in 2024	Service Manager - Adult Mental Health	End of March 2023
Adult social care staff to hold a discussion within their supervision on Eating Disorders and confirmation the suite of resources has been accessed to increase learning.	Service Managers across Adult Social Care	End of February 2024
Contracts & Commissioning to share	Quality Assurance Manager (Adults)	End of December 2023



suite of resources with all provider services for sharing within their organisations.		
Contracts & Commissioning to explore with Health & Social Care Career Academy and support with developing resources/courses to enhance learning around Eating Disorders during 2024	Quality Assurance Manager (Adults)	End of June 2024
Progress against this plan will be monitored internally by Heads of Service and Assistant Director, and externally by Blackpool Adults Safeguarding Board. Any wider shared learning identified from any or all of the above actions will be shared internally or externally as appropriate.	Assistant Director – Adults Head of Mental Health, learning Disability & Autism Head of Community and Health- based Services	End of March 2024 End of June 2024

Kind regards



Director of Adult Social Services



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