



Derby City Council

HM ASSISTANT CORONER HIS HONOUR
CLEMENT GOLDSTONE KC

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Date 08/04/2024

Dear Sir

Re: Response Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

This is Derby City Council's response to your report made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, dated 16 February 2024, following the tragic and unlawful killing of Sobhia Tabasim Khan on 27 May 2017.

Thank you for your conduct of the inquest and for your identification of a number of matters of concern, which are set out in the report. The Local Authority accepts your findings.

Since the tragic events Derby City Council has made significant changes to the way we manage mentally disordered offenders subject to conditional discharge from a s.37 hospital order with s.41 restrictions under the Mental Health Act 1983, and support to staff discharging their role as Social Supervisors. This has been informed by internal and external reviews of systems and practice.

With particular reference to the Coroner's concern, 5b, in July 2019 Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust secured funding for the creation of a Forensic Community Mental Health Team. The Local Authority has been working alongside the team to support supervision of mentally disordered offenders under a forensic pathway.

Derbyshire Health Care NHS Foundation Trust and Derby City Council are at the next stage of the implementation of the forensic pathway and are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations in order to employ a Senior Social Work Practitioner, with lead responsibilities for Forensic Mental Health. The post is designed to work across both organisations. To enable cohesive working across both social care and healthcare, and to maintain clear social work links and social work identity, it is agreed that the post is co-located cross the site of both agencies.

The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS
derby.gov.uk

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The role shall provide a social work contribution and responsibility to those that ordinarily receive services in Derby City engaged with the Forensic Division and/or under Part 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This specifically refers to the statutory duties of the Local Authority under Care Act 2014, Mental Health Act 1983 and associated legislation and policy. The Senior Social Work Practitioner will maintain all statutory responsibilities and professional governance will be in accordance with the standards set out by Social Work England, and the Department of Health Forensic Mental Health Social Work: Capabilities Framework 2016.

In addition to this, the role will work on key aspects of service and practice development by:

- Sharing good practice and learning from case work
- Sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise
- Setting standards, expectations, and consistency around the Social Supervisor Role
- Process and discussion around best practice in relation to recall.
- Develop a centralised training agenda across organisations.
- Share developments from ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) forensic network
- Maintain the Social Supervisor Register.
- Develop a countywide Social Supervisor Network, facilitating thematic reflective discussions.
- Develop a mentoring and buddying system across forensic work.

The recruitment for this role will commence by July 2024 and a full workplan detailing the service developments above will be in place by end of December 2024.

The Council has also introduced training for social supervisors funded jointly by health and social care; previously this was provided on an "ad hoc" basis and was agency specific. Broadly covering all of the matters of concern, in September 2019 Derby City Council in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council commissioned regular training for social supervisors. There is a two day introduction to Part 3 Mental Health Act 1983 and the role of the Social Supervisor and a one day annual refresher.

The course includes:

- Overview of the role of the Social Supervisor.
- The responsibilities associated with the role.
- Exploration of the multi-disciplinary approach to the role of Social Supervisor.
- Discharge planning and information sharing.
- Reflections on local policy and Code of Practice guidance, underpinning this work.
- Exploring conditional discharge under Part III MHA and reference guide, including Mental Health Tribunals.
- Good practice regarding record keeping, writing reports, recall, supervision and good liaison with the Ministry of Justice.

Derby City Council currently holds a register of trained Social Supervisors across Derbyshire including their training record.

With particular reference to the Coroner's concern, 5i, Derby City Council have introduced a rolling programme of Unconscious Bias training in relation to developing cultural competence.

Sobhia's death shocked the services involved, system wide. The loss of Sobhia, and the circumstances surrounding that, have had a profound effect on the local system and professionals involved. Our hearts go out to her family and friends. She remains in our thoughts, and we offer our sincerest condolences to her family.

Yours sincerely

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Service Director of Adult Social Care, People Directorate