

Mr Alexander Frodsham

Assistant Coroner for Cheshire
The West Annexe
Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
Cheshire
WA1 1UH

National Medical Director

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

24/07/2024

Dear Coroner,

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Oliver Walter John
Stephen Barnett who died on 8 December 2022**

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (hereafter “Report”) dated 8 May 2024 concerning the death of Oliver Walter John Stephen Barnett on 8 December 2022. In advance of responding to the specific concerns raised in your Report, I would like to express my deep condolences to Oliver’s family and loved ones. NHS England are keen to assure the family and the Coroner that the concerns raised about Oliver’s care have been listened to and reflected upon.

Your Report raises a concern about the lack of residential substance misuse treatment facilities for children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

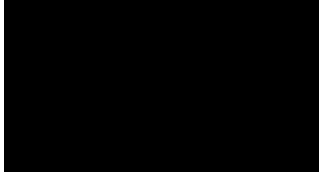
Treatment for substance misuse is not something that comes under NHS England’s remit, although my colleagues from our national Mental Health, Prevention and Children and Young People Teams have been sighted on your Report.

I note that you have also addressed your Report to the former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Victoria Atkins MP. The Department of Health and Social Care is the appropriate organisation to respond to your concerns.

Although NHS England is not able to respond to the specific issues set out within your Report, I would like to provide an assurance on the 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 to 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,



National Medical Director