



Mr Christopher Murray, HM Assistant Coroner
Manchester South
Coroner's Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

DECS Reference: [REDACTED]

28 October 2024

Dear Mr Murray,

Thank you for your letter of 2 October enclosing a copy of the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, following the inquest into the death of Mr Michael Heath.

I was saddened to learn about the death of Mr Heath, and I would first like to express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

Firstly, I should advise that police forces are operationally independent and, as such, it is for the College of Policing and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to address the specific issues raised about their ways of working as they relate to the inquest into the death of Mr Heath.

It may help if I outline the ongoing work regarding the Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) approach which is aiming to ensure the right agencies respond to people in need of support and which GMP are rolling out this month. The RCRP approach supports police to determine when they should attend a mental health-related incident and encourages partnership working at a local level to ensure people in need are responded to by an appropriate person.

Using the RCRP threshold police will consider whether an incident meets the threshold for responding. The RCRP threshold will be used in a way that is responsive to dynamic and changeable situations. As with all other types of incidents, the police apply a continuous risk assessment approach, and respond as required to any change in risk, taking into account any information provided by local partners.

Where it is appropriate for the police to be involved, this should be for the shortest time possible and in conjunction with an appropriate health and/or social care service. Local partners should also agree shared escalation processes to address challenges with handovers.

The RCRP approach, and threshold for police response to a mental health-related incident, does not change the police's legal safeguarding responsibilities or roles under the Mental Health Act 1983. Police will continue to utilise specific powers under Mental Health Act legislation and be involved in incidents where there is a real and immediate risk to life or serious harm, or when responding to a report of crime.

If the described RCRP threshold is not met, local partners should agree what the best response would be, taking into account local arrangements. It is for partners to work together to determine who will respond to what type of situation. This is why partnership working is important, to ensure partners are clear on each of their roles and responsibilities, and local areas will need plans to be put in place to improve their local response. The police will always maintain the discretion to deploy based on the circumstances and risk assessment of the call.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter. I hope this response has demonstrated that we take the duty of care of vulnerable people seriously and continue to work to make improvements.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Minister of State.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Minister of State.

Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention