

6 December 2024

Office of the Chief Executive
West Park Hospital
Edward Pease Way
Darlington
Co Durham
DL2 2TS

Private and Confidential

Catherine Cundy

Area Coroner for North Yorkshire and York

By email: [REDACTED]

Inquest into the death of Stephen Dulling

I am writing to you in response to the Report to Prevent Future Deaths (PFD), dated 14 October 2024, following the sad death of Mr Dulling. I note that the PFD is directed to both Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This response is provided on behalf of TEWV.

I understand that your concern in relation to TEWV is the management of a phone call to the All Age Crisis Line and the advice which was provided to contact the Police.

The Crisis Team are not an emergency service and when there is felt to be an immediate and significant risk, the correct advice is for the emergency services to be contacted, which depending upon the nature of the call will either be done by the person contacting emergency services themselves or the Crisis Team agreeing to contact on their behalf. This will then result in a decision being made by the emergency services as to whether there will be a response from the Police or Ambulance Service.

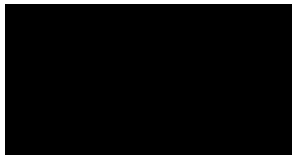
In this case, due to the concerns of violence and aggression, the correct advice was provided for the Police to be called. This is because the Police can provide an urgent response and have additional powers, such as the ability to enter a person's home, or in certain situations, take a person to a place of safety, such as a hospital for a Mental Health Act assessment, under S136 of the Mental Health Act.

Had the advice been followed and the Police contacted, the Police would have provided an emergency response in relation to the threat of violence, whilst liaising with the Crisis Team and any other services required, such as the ambulance service, to ensure that there was an appropriate assessment of Mr Dulling's mental state and risk, either via an assessment from the Crisis Team or through a Mental Health Act assessment.

I am sorry to hear that the role and rationale for contacting the Police was not clearly communicated to Mr Dulling's wife. The case will be presented at the Trust Urgent Care Board which takes place on the 23 January 2025. Learning from this incident will also be shared at the all the Trust's Specialty Clinical Networks meetings on 19 December 2024, 20 December 2024, 7 January 2025 and 22 January 2025 via the service development managers for adult mental health, mental health services for older people, child and adolescent mental health services and adult learning disabilities to highlight the importance of clear communication and the impact of it and to the Trustwide Organisational Learning Group on 5 December 2024. The meetings are attended by specialist practitioners, service development managers, consultant psychologists, associate medical and nursing directors from across the Trust, who will disseminate the learning.

I hope that the above clarifies your concerns, but should you have any additional queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive