

Social Work England
Fitness to Practise Team
1 North Bank
Blonk Street
Sheffield
S3 8JY

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Sent via email only to: [REDACTED]

21 January 2025

Dear Mr Irvine,

Re: Regulation 28 Report– Ref: [REDACTED]

I am writing further to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths (1) sent to Dr Andrew McCulloch on 5 December 2024 in relation to the death of Mazeedat Adeoye. I am writing on behalf of Social Work England to provide our response to the report.

Thank you again for meeting with us on 3 January 2025. We found the meeting very helpful in allowing us to understand the case in more detail. We also appreciate that you have authorised the release of the documents bundle and the relevant recordings of the witness evidence. We have now received these documents and recordings.

Our role as a regulator and the triage test

As you are already aware Social Work England is the statutory regulator of social workers in England. We are a non-departmental public body, operating at arm's length from government, and established by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Our central focus is public protection. We do this by pursuing the following objectives:

- To protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of the public
- To promote and maintain public confidence in social workers in England
- To promote and maintain proper professional standards for social workers in England

The achievement of our objectives is delivered through six key regulatory functions, one of which is the operation of a proportionate and efficient fitness to practise process to deal with concerns raised about those on our register. Our fitness to practise process is governed

by The Social Workers Regulations 2018 (as amended) ('the regulations') and the relevant Fitness to Practise Rules 2019 (as amended) ('the rules').

When concerns are received about a social worker, we are required, in line with schedule 2, paragraph 1 of the regulations, to determine whether there are reasonable grounds for investigating whether the social worker's fitness to practise is impaired. This is what we refer to as the triage test. We have legal powers that allow us to gather relevant information from a variety of stakeholders (schedule 2, paragraph 5(1) of the regulations). At the conclusion of the triage process, we produce a triage decision which sets out which concerns do or do not meet the threshold for investigation and provides reasoning to support that decision.

Actions undertaken to date

We can confirm we have already undertaken the following actions:

- 1) We have contacted the London Borough of Newham to ask for the details of the social workers that were involved in the case and whether there are any ongoing employer investigations with respect to those social workers regarding their involvement with this case. The London Borough of Newham has responded to us and provided us with relevant information.
- 2) We have opened fitness to practise cases with respect to the following social workers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] so that further enquiries can be made. The social workers, in line with our current policies, will not be advised of the cases unless the triage test has been met and we have determined that an investigation must be undertaken.
- 3) We have started reviewing the documentation and recordings from the coronial inquest. We are in the process of identifying if further information/documentation may be required from the Local Authority and others. We may also return to you for further information.

Next steps

We will now be undertaking the following steps:

- 1) We will gather and assess any further information that we may require from relevant persons/organisations.
- 2) We will contact Mrs Adeoye and her legal representatives and advise her of our current involvement in these matters, to give her the opportunity to provide us with her perspective and/or further information.
- 3) Once we are satisfied we have all the relevant information we require to make a triage decision, we will then determine whether there are reasonable grounds to investigate any of the individual social worker's actions.

Updates as to fitness to practise process

As you will appreciate the process of reviewing the documentation, gathering additional evidence and then assessing that evidence may take some time and we are unable to provide you with a specific timeframe in which this will be completed.

As we understand from our recent meeting, you do not require regular updates as to our progress. However, please let us know if you do want us to keep you updated as we undertake the above steps. Otherwise, we will provide you with an update once we have determined whether the triage test has been met with respect to any of the social workers.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any further queries in the meantime, please contact me through my email at

[REDACTED] or by phone on [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Triage Manager

