



University Hospitals Sussex
NHS Foundation Trust

Ms Lisa Milner
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By email only

12 May 2025

Your ref: [REDACTED]

Our ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Milner

Inquest into the death of Barry Myers

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2025, enclosing your formal report under Regulation 28 to Prevent Future Deaths.

We have made significant improvements in extending access to Mechanical Thrombectomy for Sussex patients since Mr Myers' sad death.

Stroke services in Sussex are coordinated through the Integrated Stroke Services Network (ISDN) which includes stroke services based in Brighton, Eastbourne, Worthing and Chichester.

The local service at the Royal Sussex County Hospital remains in place 08:00-16:00 hours Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, we now have mutual aid pathways 24/7 for all of these sites to University College London Hospital (UCL) or University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS), to ensure patients have access to mechanical thrombectomy when clinically indicated.

As you know from the evidence heard at the inquest, there was a Business Case in development to extend the hours of the local service. I am delighted to confirm the Business Case has now been approved to extend the local service to 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. We are actively recruiting to all staff groups required to provide this specialised service. We intend to extend the service to 24/7 following this. This work is being monitored at our monthly Thrombectomy Delivery Group meetings.

In addition, we are in the process of installing the second bi-planar at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. We expect this to be operational by September 2025 and this will be prioritised for patients undergoing mechanical thrombectomy. We are aiming to extend the local service by this time, dependent on staff recruitment.

I hope you are assured that the actions we have taken have improved the service for our patients, and continue to do so, as they are rolled out and embedded.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive