

Strictly Confidential

Miss Clare Bailey
Senior Coroner
Teesside and Hartlepool Coroner's Service
Middlesbrough Town Hall
Albert Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 2QJ

02 July 2025

Dear Miss Bailey

Mr Dean Bradley

I write in response to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 28 May 2025, concerning the death of Mr Dean Bradley. Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Mr Bradley's family and loved ones. We have noted the contents of the report, and the matters of concern raised requiring a response from NHS North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), as follows:

1) Current resources for safeguarding those with mental health illnesses whilst intoxicated may be placing people at risk.

In Teesside, the NENC ICB commissions a 24/7 mental health crisis assessment suite based on the Roseberry Park Hospital site in Middlesbrough, alongside a dedicated mental health crisis response and home treatment team. These services are in place to provide timely assessment, support and intervention to individuals in crisis. We note the reference in the report to the crisis team, however, as they were not contacted by the police in Mr Bradley's case, we are unable to comment on what response might have been elicited. However, the ICB would expect the crisis team to respond to such a request and that an assessment would have been attempted. Similarly, had the individual presented to the crisis assessment suite accompanied by police, an assessment would have commenced.

In circumstances where an individual is unable to participate in an assessment due to their level of intoxication, the clinical team will make a plan to complete the assessment at the earliest opportunity, taking into account the person's presentation and any immediate risks. If the individual is presenting as violent or aggressive, a request may be made to the police to remain present during the assessment, to ensure the safety of all involved.

The crisis assessment suite and the crisis team have been in place in Teesside for many years and were available and fully operational at the time of Mr Bradley's tragic death. Cleveland Police were involved in the development of the crisis assessment suite from its inception, and we value their ongoing collaboration. However, as mental health services were not contacted during the events leading to Mr Bradley's death, we are unable to determine whether their involvement might have altered the outcome.

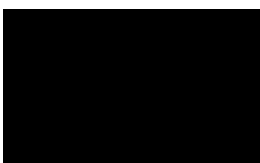
2) I heard evidence that a person who was suicidal, suffering with mental health concerns and was intoxicated could not be adequately safeguarded until he was sufficiently sober to allow a mental health assessment

We understand that police officers considered contacting the crisis team but did not do so, based on their experience that services may not assess a person until they are sufficiently sober. While clinical judgement will always factor in a person's level of intoxication, this is not a barrier to initial engagement. Referrals are received regularly for individuals with varying levels of intoxication, and risk is assessed on a case-by-case basis. There is no blanket rule preventing assessment while a person is intoxicated. The crisis service will undertake specific alcohol and drug use assessments in all cases in order to inform care, treatment and ongoing support planning an individual may require, in relation to both their mental health and any coexisting substance use.

The NENC ICB has no plans to develop a specific holding facility for intoxicated individuals awaiting assessment. We continue to work closely with mental health providers and partners, including the police, to ensure our crisis services remain responsive. We remain committed to reducing risk and improving pathways of care for individuals in mental health crisis.

I hope this response addresses the concerns outlined in your report. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Executive Medical Director
North East and North Cumbria ICB