

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys

NHS Foundation Trust

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22 July 2025

To:

Claire Bailey
Senior Coroner for Teesside and Hartlepool Coroner's Service
His Majesty's Coroner for Teesside
The Coroner's Service
Middlesbrough Town Hall
Albert Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 2QJ

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths - Mr Dean Bradley

Dear Ms Bailey,

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (Regulation 28) dated 28/05/2025, following the inquest into the death of Mr Dean Bradley. We acknowledge the findings and concerns raised in your report. We take your concerns extremely seriously and are committed to taking appropriate actions to address any issues and reduce the risk of deaths in similar circumstance and ensure organisational learning from this tragic event to prevent future deaths.

Brief description of the incident wherefrom the concerns arise taken from Regulation 28 report: Mr Bradley was seen by the police on two occasions on the morning of his death. On the first occasion there were no concerns about his mental health, but he was homeless, and the Police secured him emergency accommodation. On the second occasion he had left his emergency accommodation, police were alerted to his presence on a bridge by a member of the public, and he was thought to have paranoid beliefs of people chasing him and wanting to kill him and expressed he intended to kill himself. The officers came to the conclusion that he was under the influence of drugs. The police considered contacting the Crisis Team and other mental health services but did not do so as they reported that in their shared experience Mental Health services would tell them to safeguard him until he was sufficiently sober to be assessed. He was returned to the hostel.

The Detective Chief inspector gave evidence as to Right Care Right Person initiative. He spoke of Crisis Cafes and Calming Centres in other regions where people who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol and present with mental health concerns may be supervised pending a mental health assessment. There appears to be a gap in the services available for people in this category. The officer spoke of a discussion with Middlesbrough County Council about provision of such a service.

Concern 1

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

Within TEWV we provide health-based places of safety (HBPOS) across the Trust including in Middlesbrough, and we did so at the time of this incident. These are used by the police to bring people they have concerns about under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 to enable assessment by appropriately trained Mental Health Professionals. This would be the case even if the person is intoxicated or under the influence of substances but with no suspected physical risk.

Concern 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.

The police have the option, based on their contact with the person, to detain the person under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 and bring them to a Health Based Place of Safety (HBPOS) which for Teesside is located in Roseberry Park Hospital, Middlesbrough adjacent to the Crisis Assessment Suite. Had the police contacted the Crisis Service they would have been advised that this was the appropriate course of action in these circumstances. If there is a physical health related issue in addition to mental health issues such as an overdose of medication, the Police may transport the person to A&E first and Psychiatric Liaison Service may be called upon later, once the person is physically stable.

In the last quarter of 2024, the police brought people to a HBPOS in TEWV on 230 occasions, 73 of which were to the Middlesbrough HBPOS. In 2021, there were 531 uses of S136 MHA across the Trust.

Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 is an emergency police power which allows for the removal of a person, without warrant, from any place other than a private dwelling, if the person appears to a police officer to be suffering from mental disorder and to be in immediate need of care or control, if the police officer believes it necessary in the interests of that person, or for the protection of others. The person will then receive a mental health assessment, and any necessary arrangements will be made for their on-going care and/or treatment.

Section 136 MHA and the Trust's Section 136 Policy outlines that individuals detained under Section 136 MHA must be assessed by a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) and an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) as soon as possible, ideally commencing within 3 hours of

arrival at the Place of Safety. However, the policy allows for clinical discretion to delay assessment if intoxication impairs the person's ability to engage meaningfully. The assessment must be safe, and the person must be physically stable before proceeding.

Crisis clinicians use the Alcohol intoxication assessment to ensure the individual is able to take part in a mental health assessment in a meaningful way.

Even if a Crisis Café or Calming Centre had been available, given the person's expressions of suicidal intent and potential paranoid ideation and the fact that a person can just leave these premises, it would be unlikely that it would have been appropriate to take him to such a provision.

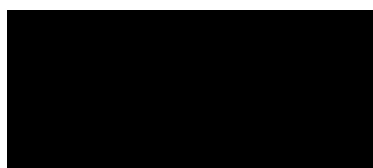
Organisational Learning

The Trust host regular Multi-Agency Mental Health Legislation Operational Groups where partner agencies and organisations, including the police, meet to discuss operational issues and to try to resolve issues that may have arisen and to identify areas of best practice. We have shared learning with the police via the Multi-Agency Mental Health Legislation Operational Group on the 11 July 2025. This enabled us to ensure that the police are aware of the Report and the issues of concern that you have raised and to identify and re-iterate best practice in this, or any similar, scenarios. This report has also been shared with Crisis Teams.

Conclusion

We would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. We are committed to ensuring that learning from this tragic event ensues and grateful for the opportunity to reflect and improve. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Chief Nurse & Interim Chief Executive