



**Greater Manchester  
Mental Health**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Trust Management Offices**

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**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Timothy Brennand  
Senior Coroner  
Manchester West Coroners Court  
Paderborn House  
Howell Croft North  
Bolton  
BL1 1QY

25th March 2026

Dear Mr Brennand

**Re: Michaela Finch (deceased) Regulation 28 Preventing Future Deaths Response**

Thank you for highlighting your concerns following Ms Finch's inquest which concluded on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026. On behalf of Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Trust (GMMH), I would like to offer Ms Finch's family our sincere condolences for their loss.

We have considered the points raised and thought it would be beneficial to set out several areas of learning across the Trust relevant to the facts and evidence heard at the inquest and contained in the Preventing Future Deaths Report.

**1. Co-Occurring Conditions**

The Trust has recently recruited two Deputy Medical Directors for the Trust. One of these, [REDACTED] is an experienced Addictions Psychiatrist who has been identified as the Trust Strategic Lead for Co-Occurring conditions, mortality and suicide prevention.

██████ is working with senior leads and has established an internal Co-Occurring Conditions group to take forward the work required to equip our staff with the skills they need to work with people with co-occurring needs. This includes the development of a trust wide strategy that will inform the service offer and staff training.

The Trust is currently reviewing and updating the Trust Co-Occurring Conditions Policy with a planned publication date of May 2026.

There is a Greater Manchester (GM) Co-Occurring Conditions Steering Group which is led by Greater Manchester ICB and has representatives from all Community Addictions Services. This steering group provides leadership to the GM Co-Occurring Conditions Project which aims to improve the levels of support available for GM residents with concurrent mental health and substance use needs.

This monthly meeting has contributions from GMMH Senior Managers and Clinicians from our Addictions Services. From March 2026, senior managers from the Mental Health Community Care Group will also be members of the steering group.

Aims of this group include to improve relationships, formulate joint agreements and set up multi-agency MDT's with mental health and addictions providers in each borough across the GM footprint.

There is a weekly meeting in place where GMMH and We are With You (WAWY) Addictions Services, meet to discuss cases and escalate any concerns. The co-occurring lead in Wigan Mental Health Services, along with managers from all GMMH services in Wigan attends this meeting. Following Ms Finch's inquest, the service managers from both services are meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to review how we can strengthen joint/collaborative working.

The Trust provides essential skills training for practitioners supporting people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. A further Band 7 practitioner is currently being recruited to enhance the existing offer. This training will cover core capabilities for supporting people with co-occurring conditions based on the Dual Diagnosis Capability Framework 2019 and will include experts by experience on each of the courses. Given the emerging needs in the Wigan borough this workforce development programme will initially focus here, and any learning will be shared across the Trust.

## **2. Carer Engagement**

The Trust Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Mental Health Liaison Service (MHLS) was updated in August 2025 and clearly outlines the expected standards of engagement with carers by the teams. The SOP includes communicating with carers during an assessment to obtain their views, either with the person being assessed or alone with the practitioner, keeping them up to date during their stay in the Emergency Department and feeding back the outcome of any assessment and plan.

The SOP also includes a leaflet for carers that explains what the MHLS provides and what they can expect as carers from the service.

Following Ms Finch's inquest, senior managers from Wigan Mental Health Services met with Ms Finch's family on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to provide support and to answer any questions they had in relation to her care and treatment. A further appointment has been offered along with the support of the Trust Bereavement Practitioner who can provide specific support, advice and signpost on to other services where required.

### **3. Professional Curiosity**

In 2025 the Trust reviewed the care groups structures, and the new structure went live in November 2025. The Trust care groups bring together services across four pathways, whilst still maintaining a local focus. The pathways support opportunities for staff to work together, reduce variation across services, share learning and implement best practice.

A professional curiosity training package has been developed by the Trust and piloted across our Salford Community Services in 2025. Following the reconfiguration of the care groups in November 2025 a group was set up to review the existing package before rolling out across the community care group. The package has been slightly amended to ensure most up to date case examples are included and that it also covers older adults.

This training will be mandatory for all community care group clinical staff, attendance and feedback will be monitored through the monthly held care group training group.

The professional curiosity training is a one-day training course, two trainers will lead the training from within the care group. The Trust are aiming for the first session to be delivered in April 2026 with scheduled monthly sessions to follow with a plan to facilitate 30 attendees per session.

There will be a planned evaluation after the first three sessions to review if any amendments need to be made. Once evaluated the training programme will then be shared with other clinical care groups to adapt the course to their needs before rolling out to their staff.

In addition to this training the Trust has commissioned it's Psychological Therapies Training Centre to develop and provide formulation training to clinical staff across the Community and Acute Care Groups. This training will support staff to work collaboratively with patients to understand the whole person, identify their difficulties, which are often multi-faceted, what makes them worse and what might help and how this can guide treatment and support decision making.

This training is one day and is due to commence in April 2026.

### **4. Suicide Prevention**

GMMH have a Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025 -2029 and a newly established Mortality Team, to enhance patient safety which includes a trust wide suicide prevention lead.

The Trust is strengthening its suicide prevention training by increasing the number of clinical staff, by 8 since January 2026 who can deliver skills training on risk management (STORM) training.

This training is based on academic research and best practice with a focus on lived experience. It will enhance skills and confidence in suicide and self-harm prevention using a compassionate and collaborative approach when dealing with someone in distress. This will include engagement, assessment, formulation and safety planning.

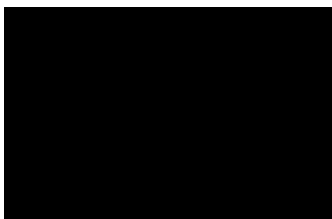
STORM training is designed to empower individuals and teams with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to explore the root causes of distress, understand its impact, and work towards effective information sharing and safety. It is designed for frontline teams and individuals who regularly interact with individuals in distress and/or have a vulnerability to self-harm and suicide. Attendance at this training is being prioritised for our Urgent Care Teams, which includes our Mental Health Liaison Teams and Home-Based Treatment Teams and then our Community Mental Health Teams. We have a programme for 2026 and will have 2027 dates agreed by summer of 2026.

Across Greater Manchester we recognise that demographics and social adversities impact significantly upon people's mental health and suicide rates. We are prioritising this training to the boroughs of Greater Manchester sitting within GMMH that have suicide rates above the national average Wigan, Salford, and Manchester.

In preparing this response we have liaised with the Assistant Director Patient Services at Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) in respect of point 6 of the PFD report commissioning services and the ICB will provide a response.

Mr Brennand, I thank you again for bringing these matters of concern to the Trust's attention. If you have any further questions in relation to the Trust's response, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Chief Operating Officer

**Please contact us if you require support with this information including other language, audiotape, Braille or larger print.**