

**RESPONSE TO A REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS  
REGULATION 29 OF THE CORONERS (INVESTIGATIONS) REGULATIONS  
2013**


Please do not include any living persons' names in this document, in accordance with the Chief Coroner's [PFD Publication Policy \(2026\)](#).

THIS RESPONSE IS BEING SENT TO:

The Senior Coroner, Chris Morris for the Coroner Area Greater Manchester South in response to a 'REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH REGULATION 28' following an inquest into the death of Joseph William Cooper that commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

1.	<p><b>RESPONDENT</b></p> <p>In line with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, NHS Greater Manchester provides this response within 56 days (plus any extension granted) of the date of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths.</p>
2.	<p><b>DATE OF RESPONSE:</b> 24/06/2026</p>
3.	<p>Thank you for the Regulation 29 report sent to NHS Greater Manchester. I would like to say how sad we were to hear about the death of Mr Cooper and offer my sincere condolences to his loved ones. In addition thank you for sharing the response from the Department of Health and Social Care which covers your matters of concern. I wanted to take the opportunity to provide some additional information in relation to matter 1 described below which I believe is within our remit.</p> <p><b>CONFIRMATION OF CORONER'S MATTERS OF CONCERN</b></p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> were identified in the report are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The court heard evidence that at the time of his death, Mr Cooper had unmet mental health needs principally as a consequence of no specific service or treatment pathway existing locally which would provide holistic and co-ordinated care for co-occurring mental health and substance misuse conditions (also known as 'dual diagnosis'). I am concerned as to the lack of availability of commissioned services to provide care for patients with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse conditions both in this and other areas.</li></ol>

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN,</b></p> <p>NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board recognises the importance of ensuring that people with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse conditions receive coordinated, person-centred support and that individuals are not excluded from services because they present with both mental health and substance misuse needs. GM ICB has included Co-Occurring conditions in its 26/27 commissioning intentions as an area of focus.</p> <p>A Greater Manchester-wide programme of work relating to co-occurring conditions has been established, bringing together mental health and drug and alcohol commissioners and system partners to strengthen pathways and improve integrated approaches to care.</p> <p>Through the Greater Manchester Community Mental Health Transformation Programme, the ICB has worked collaboratively with provider organisations, local authorities and drug and alcohol commissioners to improve the interface between services and support more coordinated care for people with complex needs and multiple disadvantage.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Community Mental Health Service Specification includes explicit requirements that individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse conditions should not be excluded from accessing community mental health services on the basis of substance use alone. This supports delivery of national expectations and promotes a "no wrong door" approach to care.</p> <p>Oversight of the co-occurring conditions programme is provided through the Greater Manchester Strategic Community and Crisis Group, chaired by executive leaders, providing system-wide leadership and assurance regarding the development and implementation of integrated approaches to care.</p> <p>The ICB also works closely with lived experience leaders and established co-production arrangements to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with co-occurring conditions inform service development and improvement activity.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>DETAILS OF FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED</b></p> <p>NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board will continue to progress the Greater Manchester co-occurring conditions programme of work in collaboration with provider organisations, local authorities, drug and alcohol commissioners and people with lived experience.</p> <p>The ICB will continue to monitor implementation of the Greater Manchester Community Mental Health Service Specification to ensure that people with co-occurring conditions are able to access appropriate support and are not excluded from services because of substance use.</p>

	<p>In addition, the principles and expectations relating to co-occurring conditions will be reflected within the forthcoming Greater Manchester Crisis Care Specification, further strengthening the requirement for integrated and coordinated responses across mental health and substance misuse services.</p> <p>This work will continue to support delivery of national policy and the development of person-centred, trauma-informed approaches for people with co-occurring conditions across Greater Manchester.</p>
	<p>Thank you for bringing these matters to my attention, I hope the above provides additional context to the response you have already received from the Department of Health and Social Care. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information.</p> <p></p> <p><b>Deputy Chief Clinical Officer (Nursing and Nurse Advisor to the Board)</b> <b>NHS Greater Manchester</b></p>