



Department
of Health

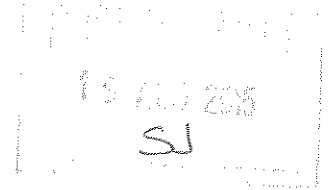


Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

*From George Freeman MP
Minister for Life Sciences*

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Miss Stephanie Haskey
HM Assistant Coroner – Nottinghamshire
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Old Market Square
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13 August 2015

Miss Haskey,

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of State about the death of Emma Carpenter. I was saddened to read of Emma's death. Please pass my condolences to her family and loved ones.

Your report detailed the treatment received by Emma over the course of her illness, culminating in her death in November 2006. Some of the concerns you noted in Emma's case were:

- A lack of inpatient bed provision for mentally ill children and adolescents (including those suffering eating disorders)
- Lack of funding for school nurses (although it is important for them to attend Multi-disciplinary meetings).
- In the absence of school nurses, there are no clear connections between mental health professionals and the education system.

On the issue of in-patient bed provision, DH provided NHS England with £7million in 2014/15 in response to an NHS England Tier 4 Report, published in July 2014. This funding was to provide: around 50 extra Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Tier 4 beds for young patients in the areas with the least provision (South West and Yorkshire). Also additional case managers, new standardised access protocols throughout the country, and a new case management system to make the best use of existing resources.

More than 60 new beds have been commissioned, bringing the total to over 1,400 beds, the highest this has ever been. Out of these 232 are reserved for patients with eating disorders. Some general children and young people's mental health units also treat eating disorders therefore the numbers are likely to be higher at varying times of the year.

'Future in Mind' (March 2015), in response to the work of the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Taskforce established a clear and powerful consensus about change across the whole system to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

The Government has confirmed its commitment to take forward the ambition set out in Future in Mind and we are making progress, including:

1. NHS England has distributed £30m of funding this year, specifically to improve eating disorder services. NHS England and the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health published on 3 August 2015, a commissioning guide for clinical commissioning groups (CCG)s which sets out how to prepare for the access and waiting time standard for Children and Young People with an Eating Disorder ready for implementation from 2017.
2. The sooner someone with an eating disorder starts an evidence-based NICE-concordant treatment the better the outcome. The standard is for treatment to be received within a maximum of 4 weeks from first contact with a designated healthcare professional for routine cases and within 1 week for urgent cases. In cases of emergency, the eating disorder service should be contacted to provide support within 24 hours. We are working toward the majority of admissions meeting these standards.
3. On 3 August 2015, NHS England published guidance, backed by additional investment, asking Clinical Commissioning Groups to continue and accelerate intensive work with local partners across the NHS, public health, children's services and education sectors to jointly develop and take forward local plans to transform the local offer to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing.

Health Education England (HEE) was established to deliver a better healthcare workforce for England and is accountable for ensuring a secure workforce supply for the future. We have a responsibility for promoting high quality education and training that is responsive to the changing needs of patients and local communities and will work with stakeholders to influence training curricula as appropriate.

In April 2014 Public Health England (PHE) and the Department of Health published guidance to commissioners for services to school aged children, Maximising the school nursing team contribution to the public health of school-aged children. At an England-wide level, during the 2014 planning round, NHS employers of school nurses indicated that they currently have some high levels of vacancies.



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HEE's Workforce Plan for England sets out our intention to commission 340 training places for school nurses in 2015-16, representing a 71.7% increase on last year, in order to support increased provider demand, all of whom will make important contributions to the health of the general population.

HEE also intend to increase commissions for the four branches of nursing. Detail can be found in the table below.

	2014/15 commissions	Planned 2015/16 commissions	% Increase
Adult Nurses	13,228	13,783	4.2
Children's Nurses	2,182	2,343	7.4
Learning Disabilities Nurses	653	664	1.7
Mental Health Nurses	3,143	3,243	3.2

Lastly, HEE plans to undertake a long term piece of work to review curriculums of all National Health Service commissioned training programmes to include recognised areas of health including learning disability, mental illness, physical illness and physical ill health and social support needs. HEE will work with regulatory bodies including the NMC to agree the standards and content for education and training, this is anticipated to be completed by April 2017.

I hope that this information is useful. Thank you for bringing the circumstances of Emma's death to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FREEMAN