

Dr Matthew Patrick
Chief Executive
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
1st Floor Administration Building
Maudsley Hospital
Denmark Hill
London SE5 8AZ

Mr Christopher Williams
Assistant Coroner
Southwark Coroners Court
1 Tennis Street
Southwark
SE1 1YD

4 August 2016

Dear Mr Williams

Re: Christina O'Brien. Died 17.09.15. 

I write in response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 13 June 2016, which you sent following the Inquest into the death of Ms O'Brien.

In the report, you raised some concerns and my response to each of these and details of actions taken by the Trust are listed below.

- 1. Review of the local need for respite care for clients experiencing crises which do not meet the threshold for admission to hospital and where HTT is not suitable / appropriate or adequate.**

Please see my response to point 2 (below).

- 2. Serious consideration should be given to reintroducing this resource as a treatment/Rehab option.**

Dove House was not a crisis house and it was decommissioned with joint agreement between the Trust and the former Lambeth PCT in 2009 due to there being low demand for a facility of this type. The Trust closed the Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley Hospital approximately eight years ago for clinical reasons.

The Trust undertook a review of crisis house provision during 2014 and this review was led by the living well collaborative. This report is attached for your further information. The view taken following this review was that a residential option was problematic in that typically bed based crisis beds tend to get silted up quickly so took the position we should trial out a non-bed based model. The outcome was to pilot the evening sanctuary from April 2015 for two to three days per week. This provision has been commissioned full time from the week beginning 11 July 2016 and provides an out of hour's alternative to people experiencing crisis.

Additionally, crisis services in the Trust have developed a great deal since Dove House closed. Home Treatment Team provision has been expanded, Psychiatric Liaison Nurse provision has been expanded, peer support (including out of hours) is now provided, a SLaM 24 hour helpline was introduced this year and a Street Triage service has been in place since 2015.

3. Indicate if there are resource implications for the Trust in setting this up and if so who should be ensuring this provision.

Please see responses 1-3 which highlight both clinical and financial rationale for closure of Dove House and services going forward.

4. Clear indication of the reasons why Dove House was closed in 2009

A report entitled 'Proposal to Redevelop Dove House, Lambeth Women's Mental Health Crisis House into a Women's Therapeutic Day Treatment Centre' (report undated) stated the following:

Reason for changes

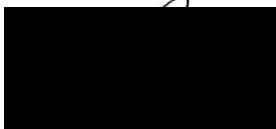
Lambeth PCT is required to make significant financial savings in 2006/7 and 2007/8. It is proposed that part of these savings are secured by closing Dove House as a short-term residential unit for women in mental health distress and instead, providing a therapeutic day treatment service for a larger number of women with severe mental health problems.

The main driver for these changes is the need to produce cost savings, however, we are also endeavouring to maintain and even improve standards of care in this process. However, as highlighted in point number two above due to both external and internal feedback crisis services in the Trust have developed and expanded greatly over the last few years to be available to a wider client group.

Progress with these matters will be monitored as necessary by the Trust Quality Sub Committee.

I hope that this letter addresses the issues that you have raised and I would like to thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Dr Matthew Patrick
Chief Executive



MEDICAL DIRECTOR



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