

This report has been compiled in response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued by the Senior Coroner for the Coroner area of East London Mrs Naida Pesraud.

A number of points were highlighted by Mrs Persuad when looking into the tragic circumstances leading to the death of Mr Usher. Whilst the Metropolitan Police were only mentioned briefly during point 5.4, which highlighted a distinct lack of communication given the circumstances between the police officers and staff from Goodmayes Hospital, It was considered appropriate to conduct an internal review of the way Havering Borough deal with incidents involving Mental Health.

Through this investigation four key areas were identified for improvement

1. Handover of patients between the police and 136 suite staff
2. Filing and Storage of 136 paperwork
3. Supporting officers dealing with 136 incidents
4. Training

1. Handovers

1.1 – The s136 paperwork completed by officers on the street is Form 434. The form has two particular areas that by their description can create ambiguity when completing them. The first is towards the top where it has the words “Friends/Family” and a space adjacent to it for the officer to fill out. I believe this needs to be more specific and should be changed to “Next of Kin.” This will give the officers more clarity when completing the form and eliminating the potential risk of important information being missed. The second is further down and reads “Name of person handing over too” then as above there is a space adjacent for the officer to complete. This leaves some doubt as to whether the person accepting responsibility needs to sign. Under the s136 Pathway it clearly states that a signature is required. However this is not always done leaving both Goodmayes and the Police open to criticism. By reducing the section mentioned above and adding a “signature” box this legal requirement would be complied with. These adaptations would have to be passed through the Metropolitan Police for approval. However this process is invariably lengthy, there is additionally the consideration that the MPS, will be moving to digital paperwork, as such it is unknown whether the proposal will be accepted.

1.2 - In the interim period we have been working closely with North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) and are in the process of designing a bespoke handover form to be held at the 136 suite. The theory behind this is to create a document that is specifically designed to identify information needed about the patient from the police to enable Goodmayes staff to provide the most appropriate care for the detained person.

2. Filing and storage of 136 Paperwork

2.1 - Traditionally all 136 paperwork would be completed and retained securely for a period between 7-10 years. This causes us with difficulties should the information from the original copy need to be viewed remotely. In addition when someone is detained under s136 an intelligence report would be created but wouldn't always

provide the full details of what was recorded on the 136 but more of the circumstances of how police came to be in contact with the patient. This resulted in information from the form 434 being missed. To rectify this, a new system has been implemented whereby all paperwork is scanned and attached to the intelligence report. The digital paperwork is then stored on an internal server. This is important should we have occasion to deal with a repeat patient as it will enable us to gain a more accurate intelligence background to the individual.

2.2 - The form 434 once completed now has an index able system requiring the completing officer to obtain a reference number which is cross referenced between the intelligence report and the adult come to notice (ACN) report. These are filed in monthly sections both digitally and physically enabling easier access.

3. Supporting officers dealing s136 incidents

3.1 - Since the introduction of the s136 Pathway in late 2016 there is now guidance and clarity around who takes what responsibility and when. A streamlined flowchart has been created giving the officers on the street a clear understanding of what is expected of them, the LAS and Goodmayes staff. This has been cross referenced with the s136 Pathway to dispel any myth or hearsay over roles and responsibilities. NELFT have viewed the document and are proposing to hold a copy within the reception area of the 136 suite. This has been sent to the Metropolitan Police Territorial Policing (TP) Mental Health team as a proposal to be send out across all boroughs within the London.

4. Training

4.1 - Giving officers on the street the correct training and development is paramount to providing the highest levels of service to the public. It is important to appreciate that police officers are not mental health experts. However it is important for them to have a better understanding of what signs and symptoms correlate to what illness and how patients may behave if they have a particular illness. After liaising with NELFT they have agreed to provide training in three areas:

- a) Signs and symptoms of common mental health concerns
- b) NHS departments that may be able to assist as an alternative to 136
- c) Police Officers own mental wellbeing

4.2 - Mrs Persaud herself has very kindly agreed to provide a video presentation giving an insight into s136, Coroners Court, what is a regulation 28 notice and the role of a coroner.

4.3 - We are currently in discussions with [REDACTED] who specialises in inquiries and claims against the police. If agreed, this will give the officers a different perspective of how they deal with mental health.

Time Scales

1.1 - There is no realistic time scale that can be attributed to this point. The Metropolitan Police are trying to move to digital policing by 2020. This report has been directed to our policy unit, Central Mental Health Team and Legal department for consideration. NELFT are also going to petition for the form to be changed.

1.2 - There is a review meeting planned for early February for a progress report. I am confident that by the end of February to mid March this will be completed.

2.1 - This was implemented in November 2016

2.2 - This was implemented in January 2017

3.1 - A circulation email will be sent before the end of January. Copies of the 136 Pathway along with the flowchart have been left in the supervisors office and within the GPC (command unit consisting of Duty Inspector and Hot Sergeant amongst other assets) as points of reference.

4.1 - With the amalgamation of Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering boroughs training is currently undergoing vast transformation. At the moment the only estimated timescale is the latter part of 2017 (August to December).

4.2 - Mrs Persaud has been kind enough to offer her time after July 2017 to produce the video presentation.

4.3 - I am currently in the process of liaising with Mr Thomas regarding his participation in the training package.

Mr Usher's death is one of tragic circumstances and the Metropolitan Police, in particular Havering Borough offer our condolences and deepest sympathies to his family. We as an organisation are dedicated to providing the highest levels of service to the public.

We hope that the procedures, training and enhanced working relationships that have been developed due to this report will go some way to preventing any future deaths.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Police Sergeant

Borough Mental Health Liaison Officer