

Solihull Hospital

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Emma Brown
Area Coroner
Birmingham & Solihull Areas
50 Newton Street
Birmingham
B4 6NE

By Email only: c/o paul.hodson@birmingham.gov.uk

20 April 2017

Dear Ms Brown

Roger Harold Tombs (Deceased)

I refer to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths arising out of the Inquest into Roger Tombs dated 13 February 2017 ("PFD Report") addressed to Solihull Falls Team (SFD).

Firstly, I wish to thank you for the extended time period to respond to this report.

The Falls Team was not directly involved in, or present, at the inquest and therefore did not have the opportunity to represent themselves or explain any actions taken in respect of falls prevention training that was provided to the Sunrise Care Home. All conversations related to the case were with the police officer, Sarah Vaughan, and were conducted via telephone following the conclusion of the inquest. Nursing staff working within the Falls Team were contacted by Ms Vaughan to discuss the advice given by the team to Sunrise Care Home in relation to the correct use of sensor mats.

The Nurse Lead informed Ms Vaughan that neither she nor any other member of the team had been directly involved with the Mr Tombs' care, and that the advice that had been provided to Sunrise was standard guidance on the appropriate use of crash mats and sensors. It was confirmed to Ms Vaughan that the standard guidance and training would not have advocated the use of the sensor mats being placed on top of crash mats. It can only be assumed that Sunrise Care Home have misinterpreted the advice provided by the Fall Team which is supplemented by the recommendation that each resident would also need a holistic risk assessment to ensure measures could be put in place to meet each individual's need.

As we are concerned to hear that Sunrise Care Home are still using the sensor mats incorrectly, and as a direct result of the issuing of the PFD Report, I have reviewed practice within the team in

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relation to the issue of advice and training of this nature and find that it is both consistent and accurate.

Furthermore, to support the dissemination of this across the care home sector, a guidance document has been developed outlining good practice in the use of sensor mats and is enclosed for your reference. This was sent on 4 April 2017 to Theresa Scragg - Acting Strategic Commissioner for Older People, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), for circulation throughout all care homes in the borough.

It is my understanding that Ms Scragg intends to add to this guidance and supplement this with further information related to assistive technology available through SMBC but I have not yet seen this additional material.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information

Yours sincerely



Sam Foster
Chief Nurse