

Laura Tagliavini
Assistant Coroner
Inner London, South

25 August 2018

Dear Ms Tagliavini,

Action related to Regulation 28 from the Coroner (Inner London, South): Report to Prevent Future Deaths

I am writing further to your report following the inquest about Yunis Malik Hadi who tragically died on 28th January 2018 following an incident whilst eating food at the South Lambeth Islamic Centre (the 'Centre').

I understand that, following the inquest, you contacted the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) requesting information and action to prevent future deaths. I am now providing a response as the statutory Director of Children's Services, advising you of the actions that have been taken by Lambeth Council.

As you know, Yunis was a resident in the London Borough of Wandsworth child at the time of his death, however, the incident that led to his death occurred at the Centre which is located in the London Borough of Lambeth. The formal role for a local authority is limited in this instance. The incident was investigated by the police and there was no individual who was found to have caused harm to a child. It is therefore not within the remit of the LADO. Keeping Children Safe in Education is designed for schools and colleges and Working Together to Safeguard Children is a requirement for statutory organisations.

You will note that the local authority's role in relation to this provider is relatively limited and that the Charity Commission has responsibility for overseeing the governance of charities such as this. You will also be aware that the Wandsworth Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is undertaking its own review because the child lived in Wandsworth at the time of his death.

A range of actions followed on from the local authority's notifications of the child's tragic death.

1. Information has been gathered and evaluated by relevant local authority officers including the Local Authority Designated Officer.
2. There has been telephone communication between the Lambeth Council Education Safeguarding lead and South Lambeth Islamic Centre administrator (31st July 2018). There has also been telephone communication conversation between the South Lambeth Islamic Centre Chair of Trustees and Lambeth's Senior School Improvement Adviser (1st August 2018).

3. A safeguarding audit of the Centre was undertaken by the Lambeth School Safeguarding Manager (9th August 2018).
4. We have confirmed that the Centre is registered with the Charity Commission and we have therefore updated the Compliance, Visits and Inspection officer in the Commission's Investigations, Monitoring and Enforcement Directorate of the Commission about the issues of concern.
5. Ofsted have also been notified of the incident, however, the provision is not registered with them as an educational provision (and does not need to be).

Responses to the specific issues raised by the Coroner

1. A lack of formal training among adult volunteers/teachers in first aid including response to choking incidents.

The local authority does not offer free first aid training, however, subsequent to the incident the Education Safeguarding Manager contacted the Centre to advise about training that can be accessed through agencies such as St John's Ambulance or the British Red Cross.

The Prevent Programme Manager in Lambeth Council spoke to a trustee at the Centre on 1st February 2018 and asked if the training had been completed. When he was told that it had not, he sent details of training. He then followed this up further and was advised that the Centre was having to raise funds for the training.

The Centre Chair subsequently confirmed on 1st August 2018 that first aid training had now taken place (on 8th August 2018) and that 24 members of staff had been trained in emergency first aid. Procedures have now changed so that there is at least one trained staff member at every session. The incident had happened in 'shoe area' which is a small corridor which they had not previously regarded as a problem. This is now supervised whenever children are arriving or departing the building. The incident happened on a Sunday when there were fewer adults in the building due to fewer children being on site.

2. A lack of emergency medical equipment i.e. defibrillators

There is no requirement in law for an establishment to have a defibrillator, however, following a conversation between Lambeth Council's Senior Schools and Education Improvement Adviser (1st August 2018), the Chair of Trustees of the Centre has advised that a defibrillator and training would be purchased.

3. A lack of oversight to ensure first aid safeguarding and supervision is up to date and relevant

Following the safeguarding audit undertaken by the local authority, the Centre agreed that staff should receive Level 1 safeguarding training from the Local Authority. The Centre Chair reported that this had been done but when the Senior Adviser asked for detailed information about this, the Chair realised it had not. The training will take place on 19th September 2018. Level 3 designated lead training is free of charge from the LSCB and remains on offer to the Centre.

It is clearly crucial that the provision has in place an adequate and appropriate safeguarding policy. The Charity Commission states what such a policy should include. Further support has been offered by the Local Authority and the model policy for schools has been shared with the Centre. The Charity Commission are also available to support and have resources on their website.

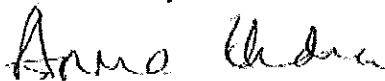
The Centre allows others to use the setting at the weekend and the Centre has therefore been advised by the Local Authority's safeguarding manager that it needs to have safeguarding children policies and procedures explicitly stated in their lettings policy.


Follow-up

The Charity Commission will be advised of this letter to enable their action and follow-up. Additionally Lambeth Council (schools safeguarding team) will follow-up on the actions indicated above through the safeguarding training provision taking place in mid-September and also via a visit by the Council's Food, Health and Safety Manager. As indicated, we do not have any specific enforcement powers in relation to these matters. Any further findings from the Wandsworth Child Death Overview Panel, once completed, will be undertaken by Lambeth Council and its statutory partners once that review has concluded and its recommendations are known.

I hope that the above information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely






Strategic Director - Children's Services


Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk

Copy:

 Director of Public Health,

 Chair of Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board,

 Compliance Visits and Inspections Officer, Charity Commission