



Report in response to the Regulation 28 notice received by Nottingham City Council following the inquest held into the death of Simon Paul Barber.

This report is in response to the regulation 28 notice dated the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 which was sent to [REDACTED], Director for Adult Social Services, Nottingham City Council following the inquest held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 into the death of Simon Paul Barber.

The matter highlighted in the regulation 28 as giving rise to concern was “a risk that future deaths may occur unless risk assessments are carried out in a timely fashion and sufficient exits are made available to service users in the event of an emergency”.

Action already completed

In order to address this concern, Nottingham City Council’s Occupational Therapy Service’s Ramping policy has already been reviewed in order to reflect explicitly that, if there are significant risks to the resident associated with just one ramped access, that this would necessarily require consideration of two ramped points of access as would any indication of an increased fire risk which has not been mitigated sufficiently with the implementation of the recommendations of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service. It is important to highlight that it is not always possible to make adaptations to certain properties due to the building layout, and in these circumstances it would usually be recommended that alternative properties would be more suitable for that specific citizen.

Planned Action

A commitment has already been made by Nottingham City Homes and Nottingham City Council’s Occupational Therapy and Adaptations services to the completion of risk assessments for all citizens moving into suitable accommodation via the Disabled Housing Advisor service. It has been agreed that the Disabled Housing Advisors would be best placed to co-ordinate the completion of these risk assessments, since they are familiar with the layout of properties and are in receipt of pertinent information relating to each citizen.

Currently, there are two Advisors to deliver the service to all the citizens who may need this each year and, therefore, an end to end review of Nottingham City Council’s Adaptations and Occupational Therapy Services will be completed concentrating on the citizen journey through the whole system and will also consider resources, capacity and effective practice. This review will necessarily also address the sufficiency of resources in The Disabled Housing Advisor and the Occupational Therapy Services and make suitable recommendations regarding the maximisation of service capacity in order to meet demand.

The review will be, in part, informed by the Government commissioned Disabled Facilities Grant Review published in December 2018 as well as by the concerns raised in the Regulation 28. The working group will report directly to the Housing Strategy Group which is chaired by Catherine Underwood, DASS.

This review will focus on risk assessments completed for residents moving into Nottingham City Homes' properties; however recommendations of the review as well as relevant information regarding changes implemented following its completion will be communicated effectively to the Adult Safeguarding Board in order that these can be shared with other social and private landlords. This action is key since Occupational Therapists will continue to assess the needs of and associated risks faced by disabled citizens living in privately rented housing in addition to social housing provided by other landlords and recommend suitable adaptations; however landlords are not obligated to complete recommended adaptations nor to permit Nottingham City Council to make these on their behalf.

### Timeframe for planned action

The review will be completed by the beginning of October 2019. Implementation of all recommendations approved by the Housing Strategy Board and by Catherine Underwood, DASS, will commence in December 2019.

Report completed by:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Underwood'.

Head of Integration, Adult Social Care Services  
Date: 22/03/2019



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