



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Nadine Dorries MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Patient Safety,
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

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Your Ref: 13104/CH
Our Ref: PFD-1192584

Ms Alison Mutch OBE
HM Senior Coroner, Manchester South
HM Coroner's Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport SK1 3AG

25 March 2020

See Ms Mutch

Thank you for your correspondence to Matt Hancock dated 30 September 2019 about the death of Charles Williamson. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for patient safety and I offer my apologies for the delay in responding.

Firstly, I would like to say how sorry I was to read the circumstances of Mr Williamson's death. Please offer my condolences to his wife and loved ones.

From the information in your report, it appears that access to neuro-rehabilitation services was not a factor in Mr Williamson's death. However, I agree with you that access to early and effective neuro-rehabilitation services is key to recovery for patients that have sustained a head injury.

The provision of neuro-rehabilitation services in Greater Manchester is a matter for local NHS commissioners. The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) was formed in 2016, bringing together local authorities, NHS commissioners, NHS providers and the Mayoral Combined Authority to oversee the health and social care devolution programme in Greater Manchester. The GMHSCP has control of a £6 billion health and social care budget that is used to provide integrated care.

I am aware that the GMHSCP has advised in its response to your report that the NHS in Greater Manchester is working to implement a new model of care for neuro-rehabilitation services to ensure that patients are referred to the right level of care, at the right time and with consistent quality standards. This followed engagement activities with patients and others on the new model of care.

I am advised that the expected benefits of moving to a single service across Greater Manchester include improved referral pathways, better continuity of care and increased opportunities for rehabilitation at home and in the community.

In addition to changes to the configuration of neuro-rehabilitation services, the NHS in Greater Manchester is undertaking work to improve the quality of inpatient and community neuro-rehabilitation services. This includes the development of service standards and improved discharge planning and processes. I am advised that by April 2020, each clinical commissioning group (CCG) in Greater Manchester has committed to commission a neuro-rehabilitation service in line with the newly developed service specification.

I hope this information is helpful and provides assurance about the future provision of neuro-rehabilitation services in Greater Manchester. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nadine Dorries', with a stylized flourish at the end.

NADINE DORRIES