



University Hospitals Bristol

NHS Foundation Trust

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11 February 2020

Our Ref: UHB/INQ/18/44

Your ref: 12525

Dr Simon Fox, QC
H.M. Assistant Coroner for the Area of Avon
The Coroner's Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
BS48 1UL

Dear Dr Fox,

Alice Sloman – Regulation 28 Report

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chief Executive of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust ('UHB') to respond to the Regulation 28 Report dated 16 December 2019.

Following on from the Inquest, the conclusion and Regulation 28 Report were considered at UHB's Inquest Core Group, Risk Management Group, and Quality and Outcomes Committee, attended by the Divisional Management Teams of all 5 clinical Divisions, to ensure that the learning was embedded beyond the Women's and Children's Division and the Board were sighted on the events surrounding Alice's death.

We have been working closely with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to provide you with assurance around a timetable of actions we are collaborating on and which UHB intends to implement in response to this report.

Extensive discussions have taken place between the two Trusts, at specialty and senior level, to finalise the Principles of Shared Care for Endocrine referred to at the Inquest. In addition, we have developed a patient information leaflet to ensure that patients and their families understand which lead clinician has overall responsibility for their care when they are treated at a regional clinic. This action is key to addressing your concern that Alice was under the care of a number of clinicians, yet a referral to a geneticist was not made.

Furthermore, it is recognised by both Trusts that the shared care model requires the agreement of all parties, including the patient, and the leaflet and Principles will strengthen the communication, in the hope that concerns, such as the symptoms it became apparent Alice suffered from at the Inquest, are brought to the attention of the team caring for her, and, in particular, the lead clinician.

UHB is committed to finalising the Principles of Shared Care and the patient information leaflet reflecting such principles by the end of March 2020, recognising that both Trusts are close to adopting these within their respective organisations.

In respect of our wider obligations, the Divisional Director for the Women's and Children's Division at UHB met with [REDACTED] Medical Director for Specialist Commissioning (South West) of NHS England on 10 December 2019 to discuss the regional clinics hosted by UHB. It has been agreed that Service Levels Agreements will formalise the agreements in place with clear lines of accountability and responsibility. As part of the 'hub and spoke model' detailed within the Principles, we support a number of specialties in the region. The review of the governance and operational management of the regional clinics is underway and it is envisaged that this will be completed within the next 12 months.

We trust that the above actions provide you, and the stakeholders with which you have shared the Regulation 28 Report, with assurance that UHB has learnt from this Inquest.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Woolley
Chief Executive

Enc: Principles of Shared Care