

Please respond to:


Associate Director of Legal Affairs
Trust Headquarters
9 Alie Street
London
E1 8DE
Telephone: 0207 655 4064

14th June 2017

Senior Coroner Ms Emma Whitting
The Court House
Woburn Street
Amphill
Bedfordshire
MK45 2HX



Dear Madam

Inquest touching upon the death of Mohammed Hussain

This is a formal response to your Regulations 28 Report dated 13th March 2019 in which you set out your concerns relating to the care Mr Hussain received from East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Your concerns related to the assessment of risk by staff in our Bedford crisis services on both 30 April and 1 May 2018. As you have noted this was identified in the Trust's Serious Incident Review Report.

I am aware that you heard evidence during the course of the Inquest that the Trust has mandatory training in Clinical Risk Assessment in place and that as a result of the concerns highlighted in the Serious Incident Review additional risk assessment training had been put into place and would continue to be delivered on an ongoing basis. However, having heard the evidence of staff, you were concerned that they had potentially misunderstood or misapplied both the mandatory and additional risk assessment training.

The importance of good quality, appropriate risk assessment is a key skill for all our clinical staff and the Trust is looking at several ways to support staff with this.

Within the crisis services in Bedfordshire further training has now been organised and is currently being delivered to staff specifically looking at assessment of risk and suicide prevention.

In addition we have recently appointed to a new role of Clinical Director for Crisis Pathway and Liaison and the postholder will be reviewing the whole crisis pathway to identify and implement improvements.

Given the importance of this issue I am also looking at this on a Trust wide basis and have been working with external experts with a view to developing a new risk assessment tool to roll out across the Trust. I acknowledge that this work may take some time to refine and implement.

In the meantime a Suicide Prevention Awareness Day has been organised for July and our suicide prevention training is currently being reviewed and refreshed for implementation across our services.

I hope that the information above reassures you that the Trust has taken your concerns seriously and that the action taken has adequately addressed those concerns.

If you do require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Chief Medical Officer