



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

PUBLICATION OF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW IN RESPECT OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE USERS MR A AND MR B IN BIRMINGHAM

17 October 2018

NHS England has today published the independent external quality assurance review in respect of mental health service users Mr A and Mr B in Birmingham.

Mr A was charged and convicted of murdering his mother on 3 July 2012. Mr B was charged and convicted of murdering his mother on 20 July 2011. Sincerest sympathies are offered to all the people who have been affected by these tragic events.

Dr David Levy, Medical Director at NHS England – Midlands and East said: “We would like to offer our sincere sympathies to the people who have been affected by this tragic incident.

“Thankfully, events such as this are rare. However, when they do occur, we work closely with the relevant organisations to ensure that lessons are learned and any necessary improvements are put in place to ensure patient and public safety.”

The independent review was commissioned by NHS England, specifically to review the outcomes of the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust’s (BSMHFT) internal review and the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership’s Domestic Homicide Review following the two homicides, to ensure the recommendations and actions identified have been implemented and are being sustained.

The aim of this review is not to investigate the circumstances of the offence, but to enable the providers of care, and the whole of the NHS, to learn lessons and make improvements for the benefit of future patients, their carers and the public. We commission these reports so that the NHS is open and transparent with the families involved and the wider public about what took place and what the NHS is doing to fix it.

The review acknowledges changes made by the mental health services since these tragedies happened in 2011 and 2012 and will help the whole of the NHS to learn the lessons and ensure services for patients continue to improve. However, this recent review identifies two areas in which if a similar incident or circumstances, such as outlined in the Domestic Homicide Review of Mr A, occurred today that the current systems would potentially not prevent a reoccurrence. The availability of inpatient mental health beds, though increased in number, remains a concern. Despite notable progress being made by the Birmingham system to address this national problem, further local work is necessary and underway including a deep-dive meeting of

Birmingham Mental Health commissioners and providers in early November to further understand the needs of the population. The review also notes that although a new Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service has been implemented in Birmingham, mental health staff remain confused about the service and are still to feel the benefits.

The independent review team did not make additional recommendations in respect of their findings because a further review is planned to assess progress against the key lines of enquiry and the recommendations cited in the previous reviews.

NHS England continues to work with both Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust, Forward Thinking Birmingham, Birmingham City Council and commissioners to ensure appropriate and sustainable actions continue to be implemented.

A copy of the [full independent investigation report is available on our website here](#).

Ends

About NHS England and NHS Improvement

NHS England and NHS Improvement work together to lead the National Health Service (NHS) in England and support it in delivering improved care for patients.

The NHS in England deals with over 1 million patients every 24 hours and employs more than 1.5 million people, putting it in the top five of the world's largest workforces. NHS England and NHS Improvement share out more than £100 billion in funds and oversees Trusts and providers offering NHS care. It strongly believes in health and high quality care for all, now and for future generations.

For media enquiries, please email england.memedia@nhs.net or contact us using one of the numbers below between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday:

- For queries relating to Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire: 0113 825 3710
- For queries relating to Birmingham, Solihull, the Black Country, Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire: 0113 825 0646
- For queries relating to Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire: 0113 825 3433

Out of hours please call 07623 503829.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands



[Click to Unsubscribe](#)