

Message

From: Judith Ellis [/O=RCPCH/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JUDITH ELLIS67E]
Sent: 08/02/2018 9:10:01 AM
To: Sue Eardley [sue.eardley@[redacted] I&S]; Jacqueline Fitzgerald [jacqueline.fitzgerald@[redacted] I&S]
Subject: RE: Countess of Chester Neonatal Unit Police Investigation

Thanks Sue,
Looks good to me - I will run it past Neena!
J

From: Sue Eardley
Sent: 07 February 2018 18:02
To: Judith Ellis <Judith.Ellis@[redacted] I&S >; Jacqueline Fitzgerald <jacqueline.fitzgerald@[redacted] I&S >
Subject: RE: Countess of Chester Neonatal Unit Police Investigation

A shorter attempt...

Dear Dr Brearey
Thank you for writing. I am aware of the RCPCH's involvement in conducting a review for the Trust and that the matter moved to a police investigation which is ongoing. The College strives for an open process around the conduct of a review and the Invited Reviews manager here will maintain contact and follow up with the client – in this case the medical director.

We do not have authority over what actions are taken by Trusts as a result of our reviews and given this is now a police investigation it would not be appropriate to intervene.

Thank you, however for taking the time to write and I hope that matters are resolved soon.

Etc

From: Sue Eardley
Sent: 06 February 2018 21:55
To: Judith Ellis <Judith.Ellis@[redacted] I&S >; Jacqueline Fitzgerald <jacqueline.fitzgerald@[redacted] I&S >
Subject: RE: Countess of Chester Neonatal Unit Police Investigation

Dear Judith and Jacqueline
how's this?. I January/Feb 2017 five consultants asked me to send transcripts of what they had told us as the MD did not share the full report with them for reasons he explained to me. I asked the review team/prog board what to do and they said don't share. Then you'll remember the police asked for transcripts at conference in May last year which I dictated for them to transcribe. They are interviewing well over 100 people so it is taking a while. Melissa M is up to speed on it
Sue

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Dear Dr Brearey
Thank you for writing to me expressing your concerns about the follow up to the RCPCH Invited Review at COCH. Obviously I have seen the media reports about the police investigation and our communications team is aware of the

background in case of enquiry but due to the confidential nature of our Invited Reviews, the detail is not routinely reported within the College. I have enquired of Sue Eardley, our Head of Invited Reviews about the situation and the usual approach to follow-up.

Our reviews follow a published process; they are usually commissioned by the medical or clinical director of an NHS Trust, health board or CCG and that individual therefore becomes our 'client' with whom we agree the terms of reference and approach to a review. We will always seek assurance that the terms of reference have been shared and agreed with the consultant paediatricians or team under review; whilst we cannot force this to happen we explain that without buy-in and trust from both management and clinicians it is difficult for us to be truly independent. Throughout a review contact details for the review team are available and Sue and her team aim to respond swiftly and objectively to any approach. Review reports are sent in draft to the Trust contact for accuracy checking before a final version is transmitted to them for use, distribution and in some case publication. It is up to the Trust to determine with whom the report is shared, not us, but we strongly recommend the consultant team as a minimum should be involved.

For the review in question I understand the report was sensitive, involving details of cases and individuals yet the Trust was keen that the investigation should be as open as possible whilst respecting appropriate privacy and anonymity. Sometimes this can result in a report being redacted before publication, but that is a matter on which your management team would need to advise you. Sue spoke to you and colleagues and emailed I believe in January/February 2017 We were not in this review involved at all in communications with the parents.

We would be interested to understand from your third paragraph what action you had expected the College to take, in order that we can indeed learn any lessons. Sue Eardley has kept in touch with the Medical Director at the Trust on a regular basis, but she had not had any indication from him or yourselves that you were expecting further contact from us with your team. We would have been happy to provide that on a peer-support basis, perhaps facilitating action planning or a follow up visit, which we are sometimes invited to do. If you would like to discuss your current concerns with Sue she is keen to understand what we could have done differently, given the nature and sensitivity of the issues raised. Sue can be reached on 020 7092 6091.

In terms of media interest, thank you for the notification. We are occasionally approached by journalists about our reviews but we would usually refer the enquiries back to the Trust for any detail.

I do hope that the current difficulties you are experiencing conclude soon and you and the unit can return as far as possible to normal. Thank you again for writing.

etc

From: Judith Ellis
Sent: 06 February 2018 19:40
To: Jacqueline Fitzgerald; Sue Eardley
Subject: Fwd: Countess of Chester Neonatal Unit Police Investigation
Importance: High

We need to provide a factual response for Neena.

Thanks

Judith

Begin forwarded message:

From: President <President@I&S>
Subject: FW: Countess of Chester Neonatal Unit Police Investigation
Date: 6 February 2018 09:17:27 GMT