

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Incident Coordination Panel Meeting

Friday 5th April 2019, 14:00-16:00

Training Room 1, Education and Training Centre, Countess of Chester Hospital, Liverpool
Road, Chester, CH2 1UL

Chair: Margaret Kitching, Chief Nurse North – NHS England & NHS Improvement

Attendees:

Margaret Kitching, Chief Nurse North – NHS England & NHS Improvement (CHAIR)

Adam Bolger, Cheshire Police

Alison Kelly, Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Avril Devaney, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Cathy Stuart, NHS England & NHS Improvement

Emma Taylor, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Hazel Richards, NHS England & NHS Improvement

Nick Smith, CQC

Nicola Pollard, NHS England & NHS Improvement

Susan Gilby, Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Trevor Hubbard, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apologies:

Caroline Radford, NHS England & NHS Improvement

Paula Wedd, West Cheshire CCG

Michelle Turner, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust

Paul Hughes, Cheshire Police

<i>Item</i>	Comments
Welcome & Introduction	Margaret Kitching (MK) welcomed the group & apologies were noted as above.
Notes & actions of the last meeting	It was noted that Susan Gilby (SG) was reference throughout as SB , Nicola Pollard (NP) to amend.
Confidentiality Agreement	The Confidentiality Agreement was noted, and MK reiterated the importance. NP to share with new members, Cathy Stuart (CS) & Trevor Hubbard (TH).
Restriction on Unit	<p>MK met with the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CoCH) executive team to discuss the current level restriction on the unit.</p> <p>MK to fully update the police about the rationale of the request to proposed changes in the current level restriction on the unit. MK acknowledged that any changes would need final approval from Specialised Commissioning and the Police.</p> <p>The question was raised if any restrictions were changed on the unit would this affect the current investigation and if/when the case went to trial could the defence use this?</p> <p>Adam Bolger (AB) advised he would discuss this with Paul Hughes but didn't think there would be any issues.</p> <p>Cathy Stuart (CS) advised there would need to be a communication plan in place when/if the level is changed.</p>
Police update	<p>Adam Bolger (AB) advised the group that the investigation is ongoing, it is a live criminal investigation. No further cases have been added to the investigation & remains at the 14 cases which were discussed the last meeting(s), which are all CoCH cases.</p> <p>The suspect's bail has now been extended until July 2019, this is to enable more evidence to be reviewed. The bail terms and extension were agreed by the Magistrates.</p> <p>Police believe there is no other suspects and are continuing to have conversations with CPS.</p> <p>The team are liaising with the National Crime Agency representative who is peer reviewing all of the expert witness reviews.</p> <p>There has been further examination of the cases identified at Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>It was noted that all of the key witness have now been interviewed and statements given. Police have re-interviewed some staff on unit for clarification of</p>

	<p>their statements. AB advised that the Witnesses were interviewed but not under caution.</p>
<p>Trust updates</p>	<p>Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Avril Devaney (AD) advised that Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) continue with staff support and the offer of Occupational Health support, AD advised that from 1st April 2019 CWP no longer hold the contract for the Occupational Health support. AD advised that the police would like CWP to continue with the Occupational Health support, CWP have confirmed they will do & the contractual issues will be picked up outside meeting with CoCH.</p> <p>AD confirmed that CWP have had no contact with any families. One member of CWP staff member not received a support letter, AD advised the police liaison.</p> <p>CWP also confirmed that the support offer went to welsh families</p> <p>Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Trevor Hubbard (TH) advised that support wasn't offered to welsh families by themselves following police advise as this was being led by CWP. TH advised that the Welsh Health Board have a different complaints/process to England. No welsh families have been in contact.</p> <p>Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Alison Kelly (AK) advised that staff on the unit are starting to feel stressed as the police start to re-interview staff members.</p> <p>AK requested to know if/when any staff members would be asked to be a witness at trial as CoCH would need to have the appropriate care and support put in place.</p> <p>CoCH staff are accessing the CWP Occupational Health on an individual basis. AK advised that more Nurses are accessing the support than Medical Staff.</p> <p>Staff sickness (short term) has increased on the unit. There a no vacancies and the unit is fully staffed.</p> <p>Executive/ senior staff continue to have a presence on unit. Unit remains operating on level 2 , with monitoring on a daily basis at an executive level</p> <p>No significant issues or incidents on the unit.</p>
<p>Safeguarding implications</p>	<p>Emma Taylor confirmed the LADO remains open.</p>
<p>Communication & Media plan</p>	<p>There has been one recent story in local press, nothing else to note.</p> <p>SG requested full oversight of any comms being shared.</p> <p>Final sign off of all comms will be from SG.</p>

	CS happy to offer full support to CoCH if required.
Individual support	<p>The individual continues to be suspended from their role at CoCH,</p> <p>Support remains in place at her current address outside of Cheshire.</p> <p>AK had further conversations with the police regarding naming a CoCH representative in a letter to the individual.</p> <p>CoCH have had contact from RCN regarding the individual. AK advised that the RCN confirmed they have had no interaction with the individual.</p> <p>The police have agreed to provide a profession update in the form of a letter to the individual. The letter will include a dedicated link to the support offer. RCN are aware.</p> <p>AK advised that all correspondence has been recorded and logged.</p> <p>Susan Gilby (SG) will write to RCN regarding the “return to practice” process.</p> <p>NMC aware of current investigation and there has been a restriction put in place on the individuals practice.</p>
Next meeting	July 2019

