

Message

From: Bolam, Lorraine [/O=DOH/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LORRAINE.BOLAM]
Sent: 16/05/2017 16:08:17
To: Armistead, Ellen [ellen.armistead@I&S]
CC: Hornby, Jacqueline [jacqueline.hornby@I&S]; Lindley, Deborah [deborah.lindley@I&S]
Subject: Countess of Chester

Importance: High

Hi Ellen,

Following on from the stakeholders call with the trust I can confirm the following:

The baby deaths occurred in 2014/15 and the first half of 2015/16. There had been around 3 baby deaths per year prior to this but they experienced 8 in 2014/15 and a further 5 in the first half of 2015/16.

There have been no further baby deaths since June last year when they reduced the unit to Level 1 only, this excludes all deliveries under 32 weeks gestation and all level 2 dependency babies are transferred to level 2 units. The trust is confident that the unit is safe at the current time.

However the neonatologists were still concerned and this led to a report to the Child Death Overview Panel which requested the trust seek assurance from the police regarding any un-natural causes for the deaths. The CEO wrote to the police a few weeks ago requesting that they explore whether a police criminal investigation was warranted. Police have reviewed information supplied by the trust and spoken with medical staff and deemed further investigation is warranted. The police have indicated that a further review of the deaths may be undertaken by a relevant specialist.

The family of the child whose inquest was adjourned have been to the trust to speak with the executives. 10 of the families of the 13 children have been contacted by the police family liaison and the others will be shortly. The trust is liaising with staff and is setting up a help line for families and staff. GP's have not currently been informed as the police do not want the identity of the families released at this time.

Communications across the stakeholders and trust and police has been established. Margaret Kitching will remain the single point of contact with the trust on behalf of the stakeholders.

The police statement is due for release at 8am on Thursday.

The CEO will be circulating a brief of this information which I will forward on to you.

Kind Regards

PD

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