

41. The NMC, the professional nursing body has guidance and policies around safeguarding and that includes what to do if you have concerns to raise. As a Trust we have our own Safeguarding Team and we would escalate concerns to them. During 2015-2016, the department head of this team was Karen Milne.
42. I did not specifically turn to any professional bodies for advice in respect of events at the Trust as by the time I was aware of any events it was being investigated.
43. I had not received at that time any specific training regarding reviewing a child death such as the Child Death Review processes, the SUDIC process or the Coroner's Office. I would though of had a rudimentary understanding of these processes and the role of the coroner. I was aware that the coroner was available for assistance and guidance regarding a death. As I have progressed in my career, since 2015-2016, I have received further training on these processes.
44. I did not raise any concerns or suspicions to External Bodies as I did not have any during 2015 and 2016. By the time I was aware of any concerns in mid-2016, investigations were under way and concerns had been and or were being escalated. I had more than likely made a basic assumption that any external bodies that required to be informed of any wrongdoing had been.
45. I had no contact with the coroner about any deaths of the babies named on the indictment. I am not aware of what the Trust presented to the coroner as evidence or information for the purposes of investigating the baby's deaths.

Reflections

46. In hindsight and with the information we are aware of now I struggle to comprehend how senior medical colleagues with these types of concerns could not have been listened to by the Trusts Senior Executives, and those concerns investigated appropriately as soon as they were raised. I do not understand why Lucy Letby was allowed to continue working in a clinical environment when medical colleague's concerns had apparently been escalated. Anyone who had allegations like these shouldn't have been working clinically. It's as though no one was able to comprehend the allegations because this was unthinkable, that the idea that someone working in healthcare as a nurse was intentionally causing harm and killing babies in our hospital. At the very least Lucy Letby should have been stood down from clinical practice earlier to safeguard the babies. As a senior Nurse in my role today I know that any nurse that works with children and faces allegations pertaining to causing harm to a baby or child would be stood down immediately until a thorough investigation had been carried out and any nurse that is accused of harming a baby or

child would be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer. A strategy meeting would be held to discuss the allegations and the police would be part of those discussions. As a Trust we would be expected to say how we would be investigating these issues. This process has been in place since 2013. I do not know if this referral was discussed, thought to be relevant or made. There is also Freedom to Speak Up Champions nationally across Trusts. I feel reassured that the division is now more focal about concerns. I personally would also be more questioning and have a professional curiosity about what investigations were taking place and who was undertaking them and not just be reassured that this was happening.

47. If CCTV had been in situ at the time that the crimes of Lucy Letby had taken place it may have been possible to of detected this sooner but only if suspicions had been raised. There would have been an opportunity to of monitored Lucy Letby more closely. I cannot recollect being part of any conversations about it being installed on the NNU.

48. The recommendations that I would like to see come from this Inquiry to keep babies safe on neonatal units from criminal actions of staff need to be far reaching, these tragic events happened here at the Countess of Chester Hospital, Neonatal Unit but could happen anywhere. Any suspicions about someone working in healthcare needs to be taken escalated, taken seriously and that member(s) of staff needs to be stepped down from clinical work immediately whilst investigated and for allegations as serious as this, police need to be informed immediately

49. With regards to the statements, I have received I consider them to be accurate and do not have any amendments to make.

50. I have given no interviews or made any public comments about the actions of Lucy Letby or the matters of the investigation by the inquiry.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: Personal Data _____