

10 February 2022

## **Media statement**

### **Independent investigation into the care and treatment of Mr X**

#### **Response from Ifti Majid, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

“On behalf of Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, I offer my deepest condolences to everyone affected by the tragic events of March 2017. I am sure the family of the victim will continue to feel his loss very deeply.

The report published today identifies a number of missed opportunities, where services and the care that were provided could have been improved. I am sorry for these missed opportunities, and I regret that more specialist services were not in place at this time to implement preventative strategies with Mr X.

We welcome the publication of the report and we fully accept its recommendations. A formal action plan has been developed in response to these recommendations and we are committed to delivering them in full. The improvements we have made in response to the learning identified by this tragic set of circumstances mean that the services provided by the Trust today are very different to those that were offered in 2017.

The Trust has learned a great deal and I am pleased to say that our services have received significant investment and development over the last five years.

In July 2019 a Forensic Community Mental Health team was commissioned for Derbyshire, to enhance our focus on public protection. This team provides specialist psychological and psychiatric interventions to assess, treat and manage individuals who, as a consequence of mental illness or personality disorder, have committed a criminal offence or present the potential to offend and therefore pose a risk to themselves or others.

We were pleased to receive further investment in 2021 to implement the final stage of a three-year investment in this forensic community mental health service, to ensure that it meets the needs of our Derby and Derbyshire population. The service has continued to develop and, by ensuring the effective support and supervision of patients in the community,

and by promoting the mental, physical and social wellbeing of these patients, we believe the service will reduce the risk of re-offending and mean that there are specialist trained staff in the community who will help to protect the public.

There have been other changes within the Trust since 2017, which we have made as quality improvements to reduce any future risks. We are ensuring that we have jointly developed protocols with housing providers to focus on risk management and information sharing, and in particular on the transition points where people move between different levels of care and the additional support they may need at these times.

We have reviewed the role of our Care Co-ordinators and introduced a new Education Lead to focus on a clear programme of development for this role in our general community mental health teams. This includes ongoing training and development for new and existing colleagues undertaking this important Care Co-ordinator role – training we have developed after investing funding allocated from Health Education England. The development of this training programme has involved, and will continue to involve, people with lived experience of our services and their carers.

I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in the development of today's report. The Trust is committed to implementing its action plan in full, and to ensuring investment and improvement in our services in ways that will best support our staff, our patients and their families and carers.”

**-ends-**

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A copy of the independent investigation report into the care and treatment of Mr X can be accessed through [NHS England's website](#).

A multi-agency action plan, developed by the Trust and its partners in response to the report, can be accessed on the [improvement plans page on the Trust website](#).

## **Notes to editors**

The Forensic Community Mental Health Team has a focus on public protection alongside training and expertise in working with patients, many of whom have had contact with the criminal justice system. The team has smaller caseloads and have significantly more specialist training in working with offenders than other community mental health teams. This enables in-depth analysis of an individual's personality, attitudes and behaviours. The team also works to reduce risks to the public by working in partnership with multiple agencies.

The functions of a Forensic Community Mental Health Team are:

- To assist the discharge of patients from secure care into the community settings
- To safely manage the transition from forensic community services to non-forensic community services, when established to be appropriate
- Consultation and liaison with local mental health teams and agencies to provide specialist advice and oversight of practice
- Management of a defined caseloads of high-risk individuals in the community and patients on restriction orders with complex needs
- Providing specialist advice to Derbyshire MAPPA (Multi-agency public protection arrangements)
- Education and training to other services in the safe management of high-risk individuals
- Oversight of patients in secure hospitals.
- To provide specialist psychological and psychiatric interventions

## **Supporting information**

1. Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist provider of children's, learning disability, substance misuse and mental health services – across community, inpatient and specialist settings in Derby and Derbyshire.
2. The Trust membership is made up of Trust staff, patients, carers, partner organisations and interested members of the public. Anyone over 16 can become a Trust member, as long as they live in Derbyshire or its surrounding areas. Membership is voluntary, free and without obligation.