



Leicester
City Council

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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
SOCIAL SERVICES & PERSONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4 OCTOBER 2001

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE CARE TREATMENT OF
KEVIN HEWITT – SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN**

Report of the Director of Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report of the independent inquiry into the care and treatment afforded to Kevin Hewitt was published on 11th July 2001.
- 1.2 This report outlines the recommendations of the independent inquiry that relate to the Social Services Department and how the action plan has addressed them.

2. Summary

- 2.1 On 11 August 1999, Kevin Hewitt killed a pensioner who was a stranger to him. Immediately prior to this, he had stabbed and seriously wounded a man and his son who were also strangers.
- 2.2 These events occurred about one hour before an eclipse of the sun that Mr. Hewitt believed would signal the end of the world.
- 2.3 Mr. Hewitt's first contact with the mental health services was in 1986 when he was 18 years old. He had continuous involvement with the services from 1994. The Care Programme Approach Care Coordinator, from October 1998, was a social worker.
- 2.4 The main finding of the report of the independent inquiry was that Mr. Hewitt's mental health relapse was predictable, but that there was no actual evidence of relapse available to the clinical team other than his non-cooperation. Also, there was no indication that compulsory admission was warranted.
- 2.5 A copy of the full action plan on the eleven recommendations of the inquiry panel is appended for Members of the Scrutiny Committee – further copies of the action plan are available from the author of this report on 225 4756. The following four recommendations of the inquiry panel relate to Leicester City Council's Social Services Department: -

- (1) We support the recommendation made by Leicester City Social Services Department in an internal inquiry in this case, that all supervision should be recorded on the case file - such records should accurately reflect any concerns raised. The case recording practice should be in line with guidance provided by the Department of Health.

Evidence/Action: Guidance has been issued by Leicester City Council Social Services, and practice is in line with the Department of Health Guidance i.e. Recording with Care: Inspection of Case Recording in Social Services Departments: January 1999.

- (2) The NHS Trust and Social Services develop a policy, which ensures that support is available to all victims of serious incidents perpetrated by current or recent patients.

Evidence/Action: A policy is to be developed across all three local authorities and the Trust.

- (3) The Trust, Health Authority and Social Services Department review the ethnic makeup of their workforce in order to ensure that they are able to respond appropriately to the needs of ethnic minority patients and that practice is compliant with the Health Service guidance on this matter.

Evidence/Action: The Trust and Social Services continue to take all possible steps to ensure the staff group reflects the needs of the population.

Workforce action requirements under the National Service Framework further facilitate this process. In implementing developments, posts are considered for exception where needed. As part of the Race Relations Amendments Act, work is being established within the Trust to review workforce planning and ethnicity.

- (4) Internal inquiries following serious untoward incidents should be multiagency and should address matters of direct and immediate concern to the care and safety of patients, staff and the public.

Evidence/Action: Work is underway with Leicestershire Health in developing a process. This issue will be further addressed with the development of an Integrated Specialist Mental Health Trust.

3. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee to note: -

- (a) the recommendations of the independent inquiry;
- (b) the action plan and the progress made so far to implement it.

4. Financial and legal Implications

There are no direct financial implications. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services ext 7054).

5. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities		Para. 2.5	
Policy		The recommendations of the independent inquiry will impact on the Department's mental health services work.	
Sustainable and Environmental		None.	
Crime and Disorder		The actions arising from the independent review recognise the need to be responsive to public concerns about crime and disorder.	
Human Rights Act		The Department's responses to the independent review support the principle of respecting the rights and responsibilities of the individual and the community at large.	

6. Background Paper – Local Government Act 1972

The independent inquiry report.

7. Consultations

None.

8. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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