



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED
ALL WARDS (CORPORATE ISSUE)**

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

SOCIAL SERVICES & PERSONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 8 MARCH 2001

HUNDLEBY REPORT – SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN

Report of the Director of Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 On the 22 January 2001 the Report of the Independent inquiry into the care and treatment afforded to Paul Hundleby was published. The purpose of this report is to inform the members of 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 Paul Hundleby killed his wife by strangulation on 4 October 1999.
- 2.2 During the period of his illness in 1998, Mr. Hundleby was treated by his General Practitioner and was treated both as an out-patient and an in-patient by Leicestershire Mental Health Services NHS Trust. Leicester City Council Social Services Department was also involved in Mr. Hundleby's care with two involvements - the first by an Approved Social Worker and the second by a Social Worker at a Ward round.

3. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee to note :-

- (a) the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry
- (b) the Action Plan and the progress

4. Report

- 4.1 The main findings in the Hundleby report are critical of Leicestershire Mental Health Services NHS Trust and the Leicester City Social Services Department. The main findings of the Inquiry Panel were:

- The attack on Mrs. Hundleby was predictable;

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- The Trust did not respond appropriately to a carer's needs and her concerns when they were raised by a carer's advocate.
- Clinical misjudgments were compounded by medical, nursing and social work failures.
- There were failures in assessment, CPA, risk assessment and communication.
- Practice was poor in relation to multi-disciplinary team working, liaison with the police and voluntary sector, out-patient care, recording and confidentiality and in the provision of training for staff on policies and procedures and their responsibilities in multi-disciplinary working.

4.2 The inquiry panel made eleven recommendations – the detail of these recommendations is set out in the appendix which is attached for Members of the Scrutiny Committee. Anyone else requiring the appendix should contact the Committee Secretariat on 252 6023.

4.3 Three of these recommendations related to the Leicester City Social Services Department and these were:

4.4 **Recommendation One**

Leicester City Social Services Department should adopt and enforce a regime whereby all assessments of mental health patients or prospective mental health patients by Approved Social Workers acting in that statutory role should be recorded as soon as practicable thereafter in writing, with the provision for the supervisory review of such reports, chasing of late reports and disciplinary sanctions for failure.

4.5 **Evidence/Action**

In relation to social work recording a much bigger sample of case files taken in 1998 as part of the joint review did not find Leicester City Social Services Departments to be failing generally in its recording practice.

The Leicester City Social Services Department have accepted the failing in this particular case and have taken action that goes beyond this recommendation.

Leicester City Social Services Department have appointed a dedicated Approved Social Worker clerk to support administration and for monitoring and chasing reports. This has been in place for 12 months. However, a check of one in-patient ward by the Mental Health Act Commission in June 2000, found that no copies of Approved Social Worker reports had been left on case files.

Leicester City Social Services Department sent a reminder to all staff in this regard August 2000 and with progress it through code of practice group to ensure all three Local Social Services Departments issue the same guidance.

4.6 **Recommendation Two**

We recommend that Social Services Department works by education and training:

- (a) To emphasise the statutory duties of the Approved Social Worker.

(b) To emphasise the importance of the Social Worker in the Care Programme approach even if a case does not immediately present as one involving significant social care needs.

4.7 **Evidence/Action**

Leicester City Social Services Department belongs to the East Midlands Approved Social Worker Consortium. The Approved Social Worker training from this consortium was positively evaluated by Central Council for Education and training Social Work in 1999 and is a post qualifying award. In-house training from qualified Approved Social Workers in 1998 met and exceeded the Mental Health Act Commission recommendations at that time.

Leicester City Social Services Department has led work in the East Midlands consortium to establish an accredited post qualification process for Approved Social Workers.

The issues in respect of Care Programme Approach are fully addressed in the new CPA procedures on which all Community Mental Health Team Social Work staff have been trained as part of the multi-agency training.

Training plans to continue to reflect training needs of Approved Social Work Staff and mental health workers.

4.8 **Recommendation Three**

We recommend that the Trust and Social Services Department heed and comply with the recommendations of the Second Audit of the Care Programme Approach in the Trust of July 1999.

4.9 **Evidence/Action**

Leicestershire and Rutland Healthcare NHS Trust and Leicester City Council Social Services Department can demonstrate that an action plan was drawn up and implemented. This audit also concluded Leicestershire and Rutland Healthcare NHS Trust and Leicester City Council Social Services Department were making sufficient progress in implementing CPA.

In September 2000 a repeat audit took place to check progress in relation to new CPA and National Service Framework requirements. The audit was very positive demonstrating the progress that has been made.

The Trust are a founder member of the Trent Regional benchmarking club which is road-testing new performance indicators, including CPA.

In 1998 the Health Authority together with the Trust and Social Services agreed to fully integrate the CPA and Care Management. A fundamental review of current arrangements was undertaken. As a result a fully integrated procedure has been

developed and launched with a new milestone for CPA in the National Service Framework. Work was done on both risk assessment and confidentiality as part of this.

5. Financial and legal Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications.

5.2 Approved social workers have various functions under the Mental Health Act 1983. Local Authority Circular (86) 15 sets out the arrangements for approved social workers, their training and role

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