

THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

Chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE PANEL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2014

The Morecambe Bay Investigation held its fifth Panel Meeting on Wednesday 5 March at Park Hotel, Preston.

In attendance were:

Bill Kirkup CBE - Chairman of the Investigation
Geraldine Walters - Expert Advisor on Nursing
Julian Brookes - Expert Advisor on Governance
Stewart Forsyth - Expert Advisor on Paediatrics
Catherine Calderwood - Expert Advisor on Obstetrics
Jonathan Montgomery - Expert Advisor on Ethics
Jacqui Featherstone – Expert Advisor on Midwifery
Oonagh McIntosh - Secretary to the Investigation
Tom Bacon – Deputy Secretary to the Investigation
Hannah Knight – Analyst to the Investigation

No	Item	Lead Person
1	Welcome and opening comments	Bill Kirkup
<p>The Chairman welcomed Panel Members to the fifth meeting. He alerted Panel members to the recent Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman reports, which were published last week, and asked Panel Members to consider these.</p> <p>The Chairman also announced that Geraldine Walters had agreed to lead the Trust Management subgroup of the Panel.</p>		
2	Apologies	Bill Kirkup
<p>None were received.</p>		
3	Actions from the last Panel Meeting and matters arising	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel received an update on responses to the Notice the Investigation placed in local newspapers. The Panel considered it should review all of these cases and where necessary direct respondents to the appropriate forum for taking their concerns further. If</p>		

<p>the complaint was still subject to the Trust's internal systems then the Investigation would establish what stage the complaint was at to determine whether it would be appropriate for the Investigation to consider the case.</p> <p>The Panel asked the Secretariat to establish if any of the complaints respondents had referred been recorded by the Trust as SUIs or incidents as this would assist the evidence gathering process. Respondents would be made aware of the action being taken with their information.</p>		
4	Workforce Data	Hannah Knight
<p>The Investigation's Analyst gave a presentation on various sources of data that have been gathered in order to provide the Panel with an overview on staffing numbers, absences, ratio of permanent to locum staff, and make up of the workforce at the Trust. Further work will be conducted by the Health and Social Care Information Centre to show this information at a unit specific level and identify whether there are any notable trends.</p> <p>There was also a high level presentation on the more recent results from the Trust's Staff Engagement Surveys. The Panel agreed it would be useful to identify a number of key questions and conduct a trend analysis on those to provide them with a general overview of staff engagement and the Trust's response.</p>		
5	Update on data work	Hannah Knight
<p>The Investigation's Analyst provided an overview of the data already shared with the Panel. In order to assess information related to maternal and neonatal outcomes the Investigation has commissioned the Royal College of Surgeons to provide access and expert oversight of Health Episode Statistics Database that will provide analysis at unit level.</p> <p>The Investigation has also commissioned more detailed information from the Trust. This data will then be compared to that held by the Perinatal Institute in Birmingham to establish whether the Trust could have been be considered as an outlier in any areas or at any time during the period defined in the Investigation's terms of reference.</p> <p>A protocol has also been drafted between the Investigation and the National Neonatal Research Database to enable access by the Investigation to relevant and appropriate data they collect. This will enable the Investigation to analyse statistics associated with babies who were born in the Trust and subsequently transferred elsewhere.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to a high level sampling process for assessing incidents that were reported in the Trust between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2013. Further work will be undertaken to test this process.</p>		

<p>The Panel asked for a trend analysis to be produced that compares staffing levels and mix to incidents referred to above. The trend analysis would also compare daytime and night time as well as weekday to weekends.</p> <p>The Panel were asked to consider whether any further analytical work not already underway, or planned, was required to address the terms of reference. The Panel agreed to revert to the Secretariat as appropriate but accepted there would have to be a “cut off” date by which any new data should be commissioned to allow for thorough review analysis prior to the Investigation drafting its Report.</p>		
6	Addressing the Terms of Reference	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel considered the table of questions that had been produced to ensure the Investigation addresses both its terms of reference and any additional questions raised during its work. The Panel agreed the next stage would be to identify all potential interviewees and agree what evidence is required to respond to each of the questions. The Panel also agreed to assign each area of questions to a subgroup to ensure a consistent approach is adopted to addressing questions raised during the investigation.</p>		
7	Protocol for interviews	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>A protocol for interviews was tabled by the Secretariat. The Panel considered that the draft protocol broadly covered all of the areas previously discussed but asked the Secretariat to include some further clarification. In particular, the Panel asked that the protocol be made more explicit and include reference to the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council codes.</p> <p>The protocol will be shared with interested organisations in advance of formally inviting interviewees to give evidence.</p>		

8	Interviews and timetable for interviews	Bill Kirkup
<p>The Panel considered the draft list of interviewees identified during the Investigation’s work to date. The Panel endorsed this list and asked for some additional post holders of specific roles to be also included. The Panel considered the list to be more extensive at this stage than those who might actually be interviewed but agreed this was necessary to ensure no individual with potentially relevant information was omitted from consideration at this stage.</p> <p>The Panel agreed a general approach to the interview programme. It was anticipated that the Investigation would initially interview those who could help provide an overview of the environment at the time when issues of concern regarding maternal and neonatal services at the Trust were first raised. The Panel agreed to exclude from the list anyone in post for less than three months in an “interim” or “caretaker” position. Interviews are planned to commence later in April.</p>		
9	Any other business	
None were raised.		
10	Date and venue of next meeting	
The next Panel Meeting will take place on Thursday 3 April, at Park Hotel, Preston.		