

THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

Chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE PANEL MEETING

THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2014

The Morecambe Bay Investigation held its eighth Panel Meeting on Thursday 12 June at Park Hotel, Preston.

In attendance were:

Bill Kirkup CBE - Chairman of the Investigation
Julian Brookes - Expert Advisor on Governance
Jacqui Featherstone - Expert Advisor on Midwifery
Jonathan Montgomery - Expert Advisor on Ethics
Geraldine Walters - Expert Advisor on Nursing

Oonagh McIntosh - Secretary to the Investigation
Nick Heaps - Deputy Secretary to the Investigation
Hannah Knight - Analyst

No		
1	Welcome and opening comments	Bill Kirkup
The Chairman welcomed everybody to the eighth Panel Meeting.		
2	Apologies	Bill Kirkup
Catherine Calderwood - expert advisor on obstetrics, Stewart Forsyth - expert advisor on paediatrics and Jimmy Walker - expert advisor on obstetrics sent their apologies for being unable to attend.		
3	Actions from the last Panel Meeting and matters arising	Oonagh McIntosh
The Chairman gave an update on the discussions being held with the Parliamentary Health Service Ombudsman. The Investigation had now had sight of the relevant internal documents. Discussions were still ongoing with the previous Ombudsman and her deputy regarding them being interviewed by the Panel.		
4	Feedback from sub-group leads	Sub-group

		Leads
		<p>The Chairman gave an update on behalf of Stewart Forsyth for the clinical sub-group. All but two of the files received from Cumbria Constabulary have now been reviewed.</p> <p>There were 23 responses to the article we placed in the local papers. Six of these require a full case review.</p> <p>The Investigation has had information on 202 neonatal deaths and still births. 125 of these have been screened to date.</p> <p>The clinical sub-group was hoping to meet for two days in the following couple of weeks to consider the rest of the cases. It is important that the work is completed to inform questions at clinical interviews.</p> <p>Geraldine Walters said that the Trust management and governance sub-group had been looking at the indicators available to the Trust, patient surveys, Trust board papers, governance processes and responses to complaints. Further examination of documentation is required and questions for interviews will be considered.</p> <p>Jonathan Montgomery said that the external response and governance sub-group had received further boxes of legacy documentation and the contents of these appear to be very helpful. Some of the interviews with report authors had taken place and although they had thrown up as many questions as answers they had helped to focus the lines of questioning and to identify some key themes.</p>
5	Analytical Update	Hannah Knight
		<p>Hannah Knight presented some new comparative and longitudinal analysis on neonatal morbidity and mortality at the Trust between 2004 and 2012.</p> <p>Hannah discussed with the Panel how packs of her work to date should be put together to provide an aide to the Panel for the interviews.</p>
6	Interview programme	Nick Heaps

Nick Heaps explained that progress had been made in setting up interviews with the authors of previous reports and the Investigation was in contact with all the authors.

In the previous week or so letters had been issued to a significant number of people advising them that they were likely to be interviewed and asking for their contact details. Eleven responses had already been received. Interview dates in July to be arranged as soon as possible.

7	Evidence	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>Oonagh McIntosh gave an update on behalf of Paul Roberts, the Documents and Evidence Manager to the Investigation. Over the previous week the Investigation had received a significant volume of additional material, partly as a result of the Panel clarifying what information they needed and new requests being made to interested organisations, but also due to the evidence team pressing organisations for outstanding information.</p> <p>Sub-group leads agreed to talk to Paul after the Panel meeting to discuss how the new material should be prioritised for their attention.</p>		
8	Any other business	
No items were raised.		
9	Date and venue of next meeting	
The next Panel Meeting will take place on Thursday 10 July, at Park Hotel, Preston.		