

PE1716/H

Petitioners submission of 3 June 2019

Myself and Gillian would like to thank everyone for submitting their responses . We are pleased you agree with us that a review is both welcomed and essential throughout all Mental Health Services in Scotland .

I am rather concerned that my views on “Signposting” have been misinterpreted . Luke my partner was given the contact details for Breathing Space and the Samaritans. Both organisations offer amazing support in certain situations , however in Luke’s case he was in Psychosis so a referral here was totally ineffective . Luke required face to face support in a specialist setting .

At this point had we been told about Chris’s House a local Suicide Support Charity a short distance from University Hospital at Wishaw , the outcome for Luke and many other suicide cases could have been so different . One sentence could have prevented Luke and many others from being passed around totally inappropriate services in a bottomless empty void and being abandoned .

I asked during the Suicide Review “ Why were we not told about Chris’s House and in future could others be Signposted here “ . The answer was a resounding “ No “ . Surely an appropriate local Charity with vast experience is the correct Signposting Route . This Charity was set up after Chris their son tragically ended his own life so others didn’t have to go through their experience of the system failing their family . Within Lanarkshire we have some amazing Third Sector Organisations and I fully support these Organisations would offer a wealth of appropriate knowledge that needs to be included in the Consultation with the NHS .

We are aware the present Assessment Tool wouldn’t have prevented the outcome alone . We believe had an appropriate assessment for both Luke and David and so many others including young children that they would still be with us today . Overall we believe a more holistic approach would be beneficial .

All previous risk assessments for Luke in 2016 scored high and he was at a real risk of self harming . Tragically Lukes last risk assessment was scored at Medium . I knew this was totally inaccurate as Luke was in a Psychotic State . If I could recognise this why did trained Professionals once again fail us ?

I personally feel the response from Claire Haughey MH Minister was lacking any real substance and quite disappointing . It was a collection of copy and paste answers . “ We are going too “ is too late for thousands of Suicide victims their families and all others seeing MH Support . I personally have been totally and utterly failed by CAMHS for my children . It was only due to one of my children hitting crisis point that someone took action and eventually listened . Support should have been there for my family after Luke’s Suicide but once again the system failed us .

MH Services need to be accessed quickly and effectively it’s too little too late for so many families . Tens of thousands of families in Scotland are in MH Crisis , so many failures from CAMHS that escalate into Adulthood .

Nearly every other Petition lodged at Holyrood is relevant to poor MH Services . It seems the answer is we will have yet another Consultation . The evidence is right in front of your eyes. We need action not words or false promises .

I would like to address the response from the MH Minister Claire Haughey regarding NHS24 111 service . I contacted this service FOUR times the week prior to Luke’s

death . I spoke to a number of Call handlers including a designated MH Nurse . This Specialist Nurse I was informed was only available between 14.00 and 21.00 hours . I was given no practical information or support and was referred back to our GP service (Luke didn't have a GP at this point) and she wished up Good Luck !! This service needs a major review as it's often the first line of Contact . Like many other services it's not fit for purpose .

I believe that A&E is not the correct setting for a full Mental Health Assessment or people in Crisis . A&E can be very overwhelming in itself with often very long waiting times and inexperienced staff .Both the Patients and families are in crisis and are often past crisis point .

I would like to see a Specialist Hub set up in a calm environment . I would like to see these hubs set up in every Health Board in Scotland .This will allow patients and their families access MH Support 24 hours a day 365 days a year .

It is our understanding that the FAI Enquiry can take a number of years which in itself can be extremely distressing for Bereaved Families . We understand that the correct answers must be obtained but the length of these FAI only adds the to distress of the healing process . The shock alone for those left is insurmountable. We both feel that the NHS complaints System is very much one sided closing ranks within the system the Patients and their families being ignored to protect others . Being referred to the next level is often the case , by which point families have given up their fight in despair of the broken system.

The current adverse events review that is done by the NHS currently is not worthwhile. They are not being objective and the purpose of finding out what went wrong is not happening as all the NHS is concerned about is avoiding litigation. As such, a truly independent body needs to be involved when reviewing cases.

We would also like to highlight the transition system between CAMHS and Adult Mental Health Services between 16 and 18 . You're literary in no mans land . May be a rethink about a transitional 16 to 25 young people's age group . Then proceed onto Adult Services .

This 16 to 18 group is very susceptible to anxiety with the pressure of school examinations , puberty and the modern day pressures to do well in life .

Early intervention is imperative in all Mental Health Cases and families well supported at this time . The amount of families being rejected by CAMHS is totally unacceptable . It's often more the case of parents searching the internet for answers to their child's behaviours that gives them the answers . Parents must be listened too and respected . They understand their child the best and are with them 24/7 .

We need a Scottish Mental Health Service that encompasses the values of the original system from Cradle to Grave . Mental Health Services have always been the Cinderella of the NHS . All sides need to be listened too and respected . We need " Action " to progress forward not years of false promises . We need long term planning that today's children will be supported right throw their lives .We need accurate statistics to forward plan for future needs .

We appreciate this won't happen overnight but the Crisis we have now didn't happen overnight due to Mental Health Services being ignored the inevitable sticking plaster responses over the years .

It's time for a massive rethink and real action to address our concerns .

Recently the inquiry into nhs tayside has published the interim report. It highlights a number of failures within nhs tayside. They are not unique to nhs tayside and failure are happening throughout Scotland. This is why we urge the government for a review of the mental health services. We urge for the nhs to learn from past mistakes which could save so many lives. We urge the government to take action now before any more life's are lost.