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From: jennyirvine <jennyirvine@[REDACTED]>
Sent: 21 September 2004 16:52
To: Steven Lindsey
Subject: Press Brief
Attachments: STEERING GROUP BRIEFS TRUST.doc

Hi Stephen
Press brief attached
Jenny

STEERING GROUP BRIEFS TRUST'S QUALITY COMMITTEE

On Thursday, 16 September 2004, Mrs Jenny Irvine, chair of the independent Steering Group, and Dr Diana Cody, provided Sperrin Lakeland Trust's clinical and social care governance committee with an outline of the work planned by the Steering Group in order to examine the systems and processes in place in April 2000 when a young child died whilst in the care of the Trust.

Mrs Irvine recalled that the Steering Group had been set up to examine the circumstances of the tragic event. She acknowledged the devastation experienced by the child's family. Mrs Irvine's reinforced her belief that no harm had been intended, however harm had occurred and she expressed deep regret that a little girl had died as a consequence.

Mrs Irvine stressed that the objectives of the Steering Group are to establish "root causes" and ensure lessons are learnt and plans developed to improve practice.

The methodology the Steering Group will use will be 'Root Cause Analysis' (RCA), a process now widely used within healthcare. In describing this process, Dr Cody, stated how RCA involves undertaking a retrospective review of a patient safety incident; identify *what, how* and *why* it happened; identify areas of practice requiring change; recommend solutions; and aimed at maximising the learning from the incident. Training in the application of

this methodology has been planned for November 2004, after which a detailed analysis will take place.

Dr Cody added that RCA is undertaken by a small team and led by a facilitator, who is trained and competent in RCA methodology. The facilitator would not have been involved in the patient safety incident, and was not in the direct line management structure of staff participating. In this case, the Steering Group has secured the assistance of Ms Sue Norwood as facilitator. Ms Norwood has extensive healthcare experience and has worked with the NHS Modernisation Agency in Great Britain.

Mrs Irvine and Dr Cody concluded by stating the Steering Group would plan to present their report and findings to the Trust's clinical and social care governance committee in March 2005.

... ENDS

Note to Editor

- Suggest membership of Steering Group is included.
- For clarification on the statement, please contact Mrs Jenny Irvine, chair of the independent Steering Group, c/o [REDACTED] administrator, at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]