

Acute Hospital Services

DRAFT

Re: Lucy Crawford (deceased)

On Friday 14 April 2000 Dr O'Donohoe, Consultant Paediatrician, advised Dr Kelly, Medical Director that 17 month old Lucy, who was admitted to the Children's Ward, Erne Hospital on Wednesday, 12 April 2000, evening, had deteriorated rapidly early on 13 April morning had been transferred to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children's Intensive Unit and was, at the stage of his report to Dr Kelly, declared brain dead.

Dr Kelly advised Mr Mills, Chief Executive and Mr Fee, Director of Acute Hospital Services by telephone and requested that Mr Fee consider establishing a review of Lucy's care at the Erne Hospital.

Mr Fee spoke to Dr Anderson, Clinical Director, Women and Children's Directorate, at 1.00pm and it was agreed that they would jointly co-ordinate this review.

It was confirmed on Monday 17 April 2000 that Lucy Crawford had died in hospital, in Belfast and the funeral was held Sunday 19 April 2000. Between Monday/Tuesday 17/18 April Dr Anderson and Mr Fee met with Dr O'Donohoe, Dr Malik, Sister Edmunson, S/N McManus, E/N McCaffrey and S/N McNeill to offer them support and to advise them of our intent to conduct a review.

On Wednesday 19 April Dr Anderson and Mr Fee met to review the case notes and agreed the following Action Plan:-

- 1) That staff listed above and Dr Anderson, Consultant Anaesthetist, would be asked to provide a factual account of the sequence of events from their perspective.
- 2) That the case notes/copy of case notes would be made available for reference to those concerned. Dr Anderson agreed to get a copy of the case notes made and have both the copy and the original retained in Mrs Millar's office for the immediate future.
- 3) Dr Anderson is to speak to Dr O'Donohoe and request that he share with staff concerned, in confidence, the verbal report of the cause of death received.

- 4) Mr Fee is to seek an appropriate method of advising Lucy's parents that we will arrange an opportunity to share with them information on the nature of Lucy's illness, the treatment given, and the cause of death, addressing where possible, any questions they have, when we have established the necessary information and facts

Mr Fee will speak to Ms Murphy, Health Visitor Manager, to establish what support is being given to the family and if it is possible to make this offer through the Health Visiting Service.

- 5) Mr Fee is to establish, from the Infection Control Service, the nature of ROTA Virus infection.
- 6) It was agreed that Dr Anderson and Mr Fee would need an external expert Paediatric opinion on the management of Lucy's care. Mr Fee is to test the source of such an opinion with Mr Mills.
- 7) Dr O'Donohoe and the staff concerned are to be encouraged to consider creating the opportunity to talk through the issues and emotions surrounding this case. Mr Fee and /or Dr Anderson could facilitate such a discussion.
- 8) Mr Fee and Dr Anderson gave consideration to whether or not the work arrangements require modification for any of the staff involved. In the absence of an expert opinion on the likely significance of the care given having contributed to the deterioration of Lucy's condition and the unlikely event of a reoccurrence of a similar outcome of a child presenting with this type of condition it was decided that no alteration to the work arrangements for those concerned would be appropriate at this stage.

Mr Mills advised Dr McConnell, Western Health & Social Services Board, of Lucy's condition on Friday 14 April 2000 and Mr Fee advised Dr Hamilton, Western Health & Social Services Board of her death and the Press interest on Monday 17 April 2000.

Typed on 21 April 2000