

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS)**

**Date: 18 May 2016**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Bereavement**

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|--|------------------------------|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?<br>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**Summary of main issues**

1. Following representation from a number of local councillors, in December 2015 during a meeting with the Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), the Chair of the Scrutiny Board raised concerns regarding LTHT's processes for the timely release of deceased relatives for the purpose of burial. This was a particular issue for members of the Muslim community, who had previously raised concerns.
2. Further communication with LTHT confirmed the process for releasing bodies would be described in a Trust policy that was being drafted and was expected to be finalised in the early 2016.
3. The Care After Death and Bereavement Policy was subsequently approved at the Executive Director's meeting on 11 January 2016.
4. In order to discuss the new policy with members of the Muslim community, local councillors, Leeds City Council registrar's office and LTHT, working group meetings took place in February 2016 and April 2016. The Chair also held discussions with members of the Jewish community.
5. Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states:  
*"Where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing*

*any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised”.*

6. In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2, advice has been sought from the Director of Public Health. On receipt, the advice from the Director of Public Health will be published alongside the draft Scrutiny Board report, for consideration by the Scrutiny Board before finalising its report.
7. As such, the Scrutiny Board’s report will be presented as supplementary information to this report (alongside the advice from the Director of Public Health) and will be published in advance of the meeting on the 18 May 2016.
8. Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate bodies will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board’s recommendations, which will be reported to a future Scrutiny Board meeting.

### **Recommendations**

9. Taking account of advice from the Director of Public Health, Members of the Scrutiny Board are asked to consider and agree its draft report into Bereavement.

### **Background documents**

10. None used<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.