

**Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS)**  
**Scrutiny Board Recommendations: Bereavement – policies and practices**  
**Formal Response**

<i><b>Scrutiny Board Recommendation</b></i>	<i><b>Agreed (Yes/No)</b></i>	<i><b>Initial Response</b></i>	<i><b>Recommendation Tracking</b></i>
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b>  (a) That, when undertaking future policy reviews, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust clearly sets out a proposed forward plan, with key milestones and timescale; and</p> <p>(b) That, when establishing the forward plan (referred to in (a) above), that Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust keeps progress under review and reports any anticipated and/or unexpected delays.</p>	Yes	<p>LTHT has a robust process for review of all policies, and the timeframes are set out for each policy. The formal arrangements currently don't specify a model for planning consultation with stakeholders although it does specify the requirement to do so. A copy of the policy relating to the development and management of Trust-wide policies is attached at Annex A.</p> <p>The Trust undertakes to review this aspect during the scheduled review of this meta-policy which is due to be concluded and submitted for Executive approval by 31 October 2018.</p> <p>In Relation to the Care after Death and Bereavement Policy this scheduled review is due to be concluded and submitted for Executive approval by 31 January 2018 and the responsible lead officer will be the Head of Patient Experience.</p>	

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<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b>  (a) That, by September 2016, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust reviews and compares its current process and procedures for the timely release of the deceased, with those adopted and implemented by the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>(b) That, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust reports the outcome of its review to the Scrutiny Board by November 2016.</p>	Yes	The Trust will review and compare the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust service model within the timescales requested by the Scrutiny Board and is happy to give an undertaking to complete the reviews and report back by the end of December 2016.	

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<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> That, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust considers extending invitations to its briefing sessions to key members of the wider community and outside the organisation, in order to help embed a shared understanding of the issues and processes associated with the timely release of deceased relatives.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We understand this recommendation concerns briefing sessions for junior medical staff so that they are made aware of the importance of responding to the needs of the Muslim and Jewish communities in ensuring timely completion of the MCCD, specifically that community members should be invited to support this learning.</p> <p>We undertake to include briefing opportunities as part of the professional development of medical staff and our Medical Education and Patient Experience teams will work together to identify appropriate forums to which members of local communities could be invited. We also undertake to ensure there are appropriate alternative arrangements where local community members are unable to attend briefing sessions e.g. using video to relate families' experiences.</p>	

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<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b>  (a) That, by December 2016, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust reviews its arrangement for providing out of hours pathology services and considers the potential for providing such services in partnership with neighbouring acute hospital trusts.</p> <p>(b) That, by December 2016, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust explore the potential options for offering routine access to non-invasive post mortems to all families (where appropriate), and undertake an appropriate cost benefit analysis of such options.</p>	Yes	<p>The Trust is happy to accept recommendations 4(a) and 4(b) and will review its arrangements for out of hours pathology and explore the potential options for offering routine access to non-invasive post mortems.</p> <p>The Trust is happy to accept the timescales for the recommendations and will complete the reviews and report back by the end of December 2016. The out of hours pathology review will include 'standalone' and 'partnership with other Trusts' options and will include a review of the Heart of England Service Model.</p> <p>Both the out of hours and non-invasive post-mortems reviews will include cost benefit analyses of each option.</p> <p>The issues and recommended processes will be clearly laid out in order that all parties, including local representatives such as elected Councillors, funeral directors and community leaders have a common understanding of the Trust's decisions and the reasons behind them.</p>	

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<b>Recommendation 5:</b> That by September 2016, the issues and matters highlighted in this report are brought to the attention and discussed through Leeds' Faiths Forum to share any learning and experiences in respect of the timely release of the deceased, for the purpose of burial.	Yes	The Scrutiny Board report and recommendations to be brought to the attention of Leeds' Faiths Forum for appropriate action.	

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<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b></p> <p>(a) That by 10 June 2016, when formally responding<sup>1</sup> to the Department of Health consultation on the implementation of Independent Medical Examiners, the responsible Director from Leeds City Council reflects relevant issues highlighted in this report;</p> <p>(b) That, at an appropriate time, the responsible Director from Leeds City Council reflects relevant issues highlighted in this report as part of the future implementation of the Medical Examiners service, regardless of the geographic footprint.</p> <p>(c) That, regardless of the geographic footprint, the responsible Director from Leeds City Council keeps the Scrutiny Board informed of any issues associated with the future implementation of the Medical Examiners service, and, as a minimum, from September 2016 provides a 6-monthly progress report for the Scrutiny Board.</p> <p><small><sup>1</sup>The response might be an individual response on behalf of Leeds City Council, or part of joint response on behalf of two</small></p>	Yes	<p>There are no new developments to report at this stage. The government's response to the national consultation on the future of the Medical Examiner is still awaited in September, as planned. There will be further discussions between the Chief Executives and the West Yorkshire Local Authorities following that consultation response with reports back to the Scrutiny Board.</p> <p>To be considered as part of the Scrutiny Board's work programme for 2016/17.</p>	

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<b>Recommendation 7:</b> That during the course of the 2016/17 municipal year, the Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS) discuss current and future arrangements for the provision of Out of Hours primary care services, specifically as they relate to death certification.	Yes	To be considered as part of the Scrutiny Board's work programme for 2016/17.	