

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)

Date: 23 April 2019

Subject: Bereavement Arrangements at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Are specific electoral Wards affected? 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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is summarise work undertaken that builds on the work of the previous Board and its review / report associated with the bereavement arrangements at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT). It also introduces the fuller and more formal update from LTHT to help the Scrutiny Board set out its formal position by the end of the municipal year.

2 Background

- 2.1 As reported at the previous Board meeting on 2 April 2019, the Scrutiny Board has been kept informed of the work progressed through the Chair of the Board, building on the work of the previous Board and its review / report associated with the bereavement arrangements at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT). This work has particularly focused on the timely release of bodies (and the consistency of practice across neighbouring Hospital Trusts) and the potential use of non-invasive post-mortems.
- 2.2 A copy of the letter sent to LTHT in December 2018 summarises the main issues and is presented at Appendix 1.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 A summary of progress since the Chair's letter is set out below:
- The Chairs letter has been shared with the leadership of LTHTs Pathology Clinical Service Unit (PCSU).
 - PCSU raised the feedback with the West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT) Pathology network meeting

- WYAAT Pathology network agreed to undertake a piece of work to review and compare practice across the six Trusts
- The aim was to complete the review work within 1 month and report the findings back to the WYAAT Pathology network meeting.
- An initial baseline has been established across the six Trusts and identified/ confirmed some variation in practice
- Work is now underway to agree consistent 'best practice'.
- It has been reported that Bradford currently offer non-invasive post-mortems; and is something other Trusts want to expand.
- A programme of work around offering non-invasive post-mortems continues to be scoped.

3.2 As previously reported, the Chair has requested a fuller and more formal update from LTHT in order to consider the:

- (a) Identified inconsistencies in practice across West Yorkshire.
- (b) Extent that the inconsistencies reflect custom and practice at individual Trusts and/or the impact of having two HM Coroners offices covering West Yorkshire.
- (c) Engagement of the coroners' offices in WYAAT work to date; and plans for further engagement.
- (d) Proposed next steps for LTHT and the associated timescales.

3.3 At the previous meeting, the Scrutiny Board agreed that the fuller and more formal report from LTHT be presented to this next meeting – to help the Scrutiny Board set out its formal position by the end of the municipal year.

3.4 The report from LTHT will be provided in advance of the meeting and suitable representatives from LTHT have been invited to attend the Scrutiny Board meeting to discuss the matter in more detail.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board are asked to consider the details presented in this report and the report from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and set out its formal position for this work to be taken forward into the new municipal year.

5 Background papers¹

5.1 None used

¹ 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.