

THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

Chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE PANEL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2013

The Morecambe Bay Investigation held its second Panel Meeting on Wednesday 11 December at Park Hotel, Preston.

In attendance were:

Bill Kirkup CBE - Chairman of the Investigation
Geraldine Walters - Expert Advisor on Nursing
Julian Brookes - Expert Advisor on Governance
Stewart Forsyth - Expert Advisor on Paediatrics
Catherine Calderwood - Expert Advisor on Obstetrics
Jonathan Montgomery - Expert Advisor on Ethics
Jacqui Featherstone – Expert Advisor on Midwifery
Oonagh McIntosh - Secretary to the Investigation
Hannah Knight – Analyst to the Investigation

No	Item	Lead Person
1	Welcome and Chairman's opening comments	
Jacqui Featherstone was welcomed to her first Panel Meeting as the Investigation's expert advisor on midwifery.		
2	The experience of the families	Bill Kirkup
The Panel heard oral evidence from a further family regarding the care they received at the Trust and when their baby was transferred to a specialist unit elsewhere. As with the first meeting on 28 November 2013, this evidence was heard with regard to term of reference 1: <i>To review the outcomes for mothers and babies that occurred during this time, including maternal and neonatal deaths that occurred in the trust and in any other institutions to which patients were transferred.</i>		
3	Actions from the last Panel Meeting and matters arising (including the approach to the Investigation, draft letter to the Trust, chronology of events and analytical work)	Oonagh McIntosh
The Panel considered the matters arising from first meeting. They discussed the Investigation's approach to using pseudonyms for those families who wish to remain		

<p>anonymous along with methods for ensuring clarity between evidence that is already in the public domain and evidence that is currently confidential to the Investigation.</p> <p>The Panel considered a set of key questions to help focus their work and meet the Investigation's terms of reference.</p> <p>The Investigation's Analyst gave a presentation on the demographics of the Trust's catchment area in terms of patients and their outcomes compared to the national picture.</p>		
4	Evidence from affected families	Bill Kirkup
<p>This item was considered as part of the discussion under agenda item 3.</p>		
5	Consideration of submissions to the Investigation - determination of relevance to the Investigation's terms of reference	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel agreed the high level approach that the Secretariat should adopt if additional families or individuals approach the Investigation wanting to provide evidence.</p>		
6	Future work programme/timetable	Bill Kirkup
<p>The Panel discussed their initial thinking on how to structure the case and evidence review. A draft timetable for the Investigations work was discussed.</p> <p>Catherine Calderwood suggested the Panel might find it useful to discuss their approach to case reviews with an academic team based in the University of Leicester who regularly undertake case reviews and use an established methodology to undertake their work. It was agreed a smaller sub-group of some clinical members of the Panel would arrange to meet the team in Leicester.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the need to understand the layout of the Trust's maternity units. It was agreed the Panel should seek an early opportunity for an informal visit to the Trust to set in context the evidence they are hearing as well as look at how the services are currently delivered.</p>		
7	Communications	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel discussed the notification the Investigation intends to place in local papers seeking further information from affected families. In particular the panel asked the Secretariat to work with the Trust to make sure existing staff are aware of the notice prior to its publication.</p>		
8	Any Other Business	Bill Kirkup
<p>The Panel briefly discussed the need to understand how staffing rotation worked in the maternity units during the time period the Investigation is considering as well as weekly staffing levels. No other items were raised under this item.</p>		

9	Date and venue of next meeting	
<p>It was agreed that the next Panel Meeting would take place in the second week of January 2014. The date would be confirmed as soon as possible.</p>		