

THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

Chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE PANEL MEETING

THURSDAY 10 JULY 2014

The Morecambe Bay Investigation held its ninth Panel Meeting on Thursday 10 July at Park Hotel, Preston.

In attendance were:

Bill Kirkup CBE - Chairman of the Investigation
Julian Brookes - Expert Advisor on Governance
Stewart Forsyth - Expert Advisor on Paediatrics
James Walker - Expert Advisor on Obstetrics
Jonathan Montgomery - Expert Advisor on Ethics
Geraldine Walters - Expert Advisor on Nursing

Oonagh McIntosh - Secretary to the Investigation
Paul Roberts - Documents and Evidence Manager

| No | Item | Lead Person |
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| 1 | Welcome and opening comments | Bill Kirkup |
| The Chairman welcomed everybody to the ninth Panel Meeting. | | |
| 2 | Apologies | Bill Kirkup |
| Catherine Calderwood - expert advisor on obstetrics and Jacqui Featherstone - expert advisor on midwifery sent their apologies for being unable to attend. | | |
| 3 | Actions from the last Panel Meeting and matters arising | Oonagh McIntosh |
| The Secretary gave an update on the ongoing discussions with interested organisations to ensure appropriate interviewees could be identified, contacted and arrangements made for their attendance. | | |
| The Secretary updated the Panel on the interview programme. Letters had been issued to | | |

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| <p>individuals notifying them that they may be invited to attend an interview, asking for their contact details and any unavailable dates. Responses had been received from the majority of these. Reminder letters to be issued to those who have not responded.</p> <p>Letters were also issued to former Health Ministers as potential interviewees and they were asked to provide a short written summary of their knowledge of the situation at the Trust. Reminder letters will be sent to those who have yet to respond. The Chairman said that the Investigation might require more detailed information from two or three of the Ministers and that it should be possible to manage this in writing.</p> | | |
| 4 | Feedback from sub-group leads | Sub-group Leads |
| <p>Stewart Forsyth gave an update for the clinical sub-group.</p> <p>The case notes of over two hundred maternal, perinatal and neonatal deaths have been initially reviewed and over 25% of the cases required a full case review. The sub-group has detailed information on the cases in preparation for interviews and is compiling information on the emerging themes.</p> <p>Stewart also talked about the approach being adopted in providing information on the key index cases. The sub-group is adopting a start to finish approach for these cases, from the clinical presentation through to any subsequent actions that were taken involving other agencies.</p> <p>Geraldine Walters said that the Trust management and governance sub-group had continued looking at the various indicators available to the Trust. It had also looked at the responses from the Trust Board to the external reviews and what was delivered as a result. The work is providing a focus for the interviews and the sub-group will be looking for answers they have not found in the paperwork.</p> <p>Jonathan Montgomery said that a number of the interviews requested by the external response and governance sub-group had now been completed. A visit to CQC was planned for the next day and Gold Command interviews happening the following week. Jonathan said the group intended to start pulling the information together in preparation for writing the report.</p> | | |
| 5 | Structure of the Investigation Report | Oonagh McIntosh |
| <p>Oonagh McIntosh presented two proposals for how the Investigation report might be structured. The first option was to base it on the terms of reference and work through those, whilst the second option was to explore the themes emerging from the work of the</p> | | |

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| <p>Investigation. The Panel discussed the merits of both options and the view was that a thematic approach, rather than one divided by the terms of reference, would provide a much more readable and useful report, especially for the families. The Panel were clear though that the report must demonstrate that the Investigation had at least met, if not exceeded, its terms of reference. In writing the report they must also be aware of relevant recommendations made by other recent reports.</p> | | |
| 8 | Any other business | |
| <p>Oonagh McIntosh spoke about the need for the Panel to ring fence dates for interviews to enable the team to book in more interviewees.</p> <p>Oonagh also announced that two members of the Investigation team would be leaving on 31 July as the period of their secondment agreements came to an end. Oonagh and the Panel formally thanked Kate and Bev for their work and support.</p> | | |
| 9 | Date and venue of next meeting | |
| <p>The next Panel Meeting will take place on Thursday 11 September, at Park Hotel, Preston.</p> | | |