

PRESS RELEASE

Friday, December 11, 2015

INDEPENDENT REPORT PUBLISHED INTO DEATH OF JONNIE MEEK

An independent case review report has been published today into the death of three-year-old Jonnie Meek.

Jonnie had the rare genetic condition De Grouchy Syndrome and had to be fed through a tube in his stomach. He died on 11 August 2014 during a planned admission to the former Stafford Hospital, which was part of the former Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust. He had been admitted to introduce a new milk formula in his feed.

The report, by Dr Martin Farrier, a consultant paediatrician at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, was commissioned by Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group in an attempt to provide a resolution to a number of questions raised by Jonnie's family, who live in Cannock.

The review found that:

1. Jonnie's reaction to the new milk feed was a "very unlikely" event which could not have been predicted by the medical staff caring for him
2. It cannot be conclusively stated that his reaction to the milk feed was the cause of Jonnie's death, but Dr Farrier regards it as the "most plausible" of a range of unlikely events
3. The response of the medical staff to Jonnie's deterioration was "exceptionally rapid" and a "very experienced team" attempted resuscitation.
4. Given the conclusion reached by the inquest (that Jonnie died of "pneumonia natural causes") Dr Farrier recommends that a new inquest should be held.
5. Dr Farrier also observes that Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust offered a "poor" response to the family's concerns and did not respond adequately to them.

Dr Farrier makes five recommendations relating to:

1. the care of children being reintroduced to cow's milk
2. the recorded cause of death and a recommendation to hold a further inquest
3. the opportunity for Child Death Overview Panels to provide an "independent view"
4. the way that pathologist and clinicians should conduct investigations following the death of a child
5. the way NHS organisations manage complaints



Andrew Donald, Chief Officer of Cannock Chase, Stafford and Surrounds, and South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCGs, said: “Firstly I would like to offer my sympathies to the family of Jonnie Meek. I also want to publicly apologise to the family that it has taken 15 months to answer their questions.

“The events of the 11th August 2014 were unexpected and catastrophic for Jonnie. I am convinced having read the clinical review that if the family had been listened to when the Trust received the original complaint then we would not have had to commission this review.

“The complaints procedure has failed and I pay tribute to Jonnie’s family for their fight to get the answers they deserve.

“We are pleased that Dr Farrier concluded that medical staff did everything in their power to keep Jonnie alive – there is no suggestion that anyone did anything wrong in the medical care provided.

“We will now take steps to have the first inquest verdict quashed and a second inquest held.

“We accept the recommendations of the report and will seek to implement them in consultation with NHS colleagues and other partners.”

ENDS

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