

Invitation to family members for expressions of interest in attending a ‘Learning after Deaths’ – the ‘next steps’ day

Wednesday 1 November 2017 – London 10.00am – 4.30pm, venue to be confirmed

In December 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published its report [‘Learning, candour and accountability’](#) which examined the way NHS Trusts review and investigate deaths of patients in England. It concluded that learning after deaths is not given sufficient priority by the NHS.

As a result the [‘Learning after Deaths’ programme](#) was established to ensure that the recommendations contained in the report can be implemented in a clear and structured way. Part of this work is focused on developing guidance for Trusts to ensure timely, transparent and compassionate contact with families and carers who’ve lost loved ones in NHS care; and raising the status of families/carers in investigations.

A ‘working group’ has been established including:

- people with lived experience of the death of a loved one in NHS care which resulted in a review or investigation,
- advocates,
- NHS England,
- NHS Improvement and
- NHS Trust representatives

This working group has now completed a review of what we’ve heard from families and carers to date. This is being used to help us identify the key issues that families have told us they want to see included in the guidance.

The next important stage is a ‘next steps’ day to be held on 1 November 2017 in London. This will focus on the key issues already identified and begin to develop the guidance for NHS Trusts. The final guidance will be published in early 2018.

Our working group members would like to hear from families and carers who have lived experience of the death of a loved one in NHS Commissioned Care which has resulted in a review or investigation and want to be involved in the development of this guidance. By listening to the valuable views of families/carers, we can shape the positive changes needed to ensure the guidance makes a real and lasting difference to other families in the future. We will also be inviting a number of advocates from different family support organisations and charities, so they can also share their ideas for the best way forward.

As we have limited places, we’re asking families and carers who’d like to be involved to complete an [expression of interest form](#) by 29 September 2017. If you’d like a paper or email version of the form, please contact england.nhs.participation@nhs.net. We recognise it's important to include as many families as possible, and we want to make sure that we engage a variety of families

and carers with a range of views. Depending on the interest in attending we may not be able to offer places to everyone who applies. We will confirm attendance by 6 October 2017 and will also provide other options to be involved including a live webcast from the event and online discussions forum for those unable to attend in person.

The day will include lunch, refreshments; support from the bereavement charity Respond if needed and expenses will be paid in line with the [NHS England expenses policy](#).

You may also be interested to know that the '[Learning after Deaths' programme](#) is looking for family members/carers with lived experience of an investigation or review who are interested in joining the Programme Board as Patient and Public Voice (PPV) partners. More information about the roles, what they entail and how to apply can be found on the [current opportunities section](#) of the NHS England website.

We really hope that you'll be able to join us for this day, so that we can truly work together on this important guidance. If you have any questions you can email us at england.nhs.participation@nhs.net for more information.

Thank you

Marie Boles
Deputy Chief Nurse (North Region)
NHS England
(On behalf of The Learning after Deaths working group)